

## Irbid, Jerash celebrate Karamah victory

IRBID (Petra) — Celebrations were held Saturday by the Education Department in Irbid under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan on the occasion of the 19th anniversary of the Karamah Battle in which the Jordanian Armed Forces repulsed an Israeli assault across River Jordan and achieved a decisive victory. In the Irbid celebrations, Minister of Education Thoukan Al Hindawi was deputised by the Crown Prince. During the ceremonies, held at Yarmouk University, speeches were delivered by Education Department officials and students hailing the historical lesson which should be learnt from the battle and the sacrifices made by the Armed Forces in defence of the Arab Nation. Also on Saturday Minister of Information Mohammad Al Khatib, deputising for Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, patronised a festival held on this occasion in Jerash. Mr. Khatib delivered a speech hailing the leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and praised the role played by the Armed Forces.

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## Cabinet meets

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet held an ordinary session on Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai. The session discussed a number of topics on its agenda and took decisions regarding them. The decisions taken, include approval of a draft budget for the health insurance fund for the current year. The Cabinet, upon recommendations of the investment encouragement committee, decided to exempt a number of economic projects from certain fees.

## Rifai meets

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister and Defence Minister Zaid Rifai on Saturday met with Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, which reported the talks, gave no details about the meeting which took place at the Armed Forces General Headquarters.

## Holiday declared

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will observe Al Isra' Wal Mi'raj Day (the anniversary marking the Prophet Mohammad's nocturnal journey and ascension to heaven) on Thursday. A statement issued by the Prime Minister's office on Saturday said that all government departments and public institutions would remain closed on that day. On the occasion, the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs normally holds special ceremonies in various mosques of the Kingdom.

## Fahd heading for Britain and France

RABAT (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd left Fez in central Morocco Friday night for Tangier in the north after a three-day private visit, the official news agency MAP said Saturday. Diplomatic sources said the Saudi monarch was on his way to France and Britain. He is due in London Monday for an official visit. He arrived in Morocco on Thursday after a 24-hour official visit to neighbouring Algeria and during his stay in Fez had two rounds of talks with King Hassan.

## Soviets reportedly set up 'listening posts' in Iran

NEW YORK (AP) — The Soviet Union has installed two listening stations in Iran to monitor activity in the Gulf, the Gulf states and Pakistan and gave 200 missiles to Iran in exchange, according to a report broadcast Friday. The ABC television network, citing two unidentified sources, reported that the listening stations, equipped with special antennas and radar, had been installed in the past several months. The stations, used to monitor military movement and communications, are similar to those installed by the United States in Iran.

## Raimond begins visit to Oman

MUSCAT (R) — French Foreign Minister Jean-Bernard Raimond began a three-day visit to Oman on Saturday aimed at strengthening relations between Muscat and Paris. In an interview given in Paris before he left and published here in the local press, Mr. Raimond said he would have talks with Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Youssef Ibn Alawi Ibn Abdullah.

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# Bombs explode in Beirut amid reports of Syrian plan to deploy in Sidon

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Two bombs went off overnight in Syrian-policed west Beirut and a truckload of explosives believed destined for extremist attacks was seized in Lebanon's southern port city of Sidon, police said Saturday.

Beirut's independent newspaper An-Nabih, meanwhile, said the United States was pressing Lebanon to pay a debt of \$150 million incurred by U.S. arms sales to the Lebanese army.

A police statement said the bomb blasts in west Beirut's residential districts of Sanayeh and Karakol Druze inflicted damage. But no casualties were reported. The explosions brought to five the number of bomb attacks in west Beirut since 7,500 Syrian soldiers backed by 100 tanks deployed in the capital's mainly Muslim western sector Feb. 22 to quell week-long factional clashes that killed 300 people and wounded 1,300.

The Sunni Muslim Popular Nasserite organisation militia confiscated a truck load of anti-personnel and anti-tank mines in South Lebanon's provincial capital of Sidon, according to police.

The group said in a statement the truck's unnamed driver "was arrested and testified that the

load was to be used in sabotage attacks in the city," the third largest in Lebanon with an estimated population of 250,000.

Troops of the regular Lebanese army tightened security arrangements at the northern entrance to Sidon after the explosives were seized. They were thoroughly frisking motorists and pedestrians, Sidon-based reporters said.

The development followed a Lebanese magazine report that Syria plans to deploy troops in and around Sidon by the end of April.

Ash Shiraa, the weekly that first reported secret American arms sales to Iran, on Friday quoted the chief of Syria's military intelligence in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan as saying Syrian troops "will reach the Zaharani oil refinery south of Sidon at the end of April."

Brig. Kanaan, coordinator of the Syrian army's deployment in west Beirut, disclosed the plan to

expand south at a recent meeting of security officers, the magazine said. It did not elaborate.

There has been speculation that Israel considers the Awali River just north of Sidon a "red line" beyond which the Syrian army in Lebanon should not go.

If accurate, the magazine report would place the Syrian army 10 kilometres south of the alleged red line. Zaharani is 50 kilometres north.

In another development, the father of a French hostage under death threat arrived in Beirut on Saturday to plead for his son's life as two other kidnapped Frenchmen completed their second year as captives.

Marc Normandin, 58, arrived in Beirut's mostly Christian eastern sector on a "personal and strictly individual initiative" to try to save his son, Jean-Louis Normandin, 35, a lighting engineer with France's Antenne-2 television station, a French embassy spokesman said.

Revolutionary Justice, a group believed made up of pro-Iranian extremists, has threatened to kill the younger Normandin by next Tuesday unless the French government clarifies its policies on terrorism and arms supplies to Iraq.

## Gemayel envoys reportedly solve 'all pending points' with Syria

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Envoys of Lebanon's President Amin Gemayel Saturday ended their ninth round of talks with Syrian leaders on a blueprint to end Lebanon's 12-year-old civil war with officials reporting "good and substantial progress."

"All the pending points have been solved, including the issue of Lebanon's relations with Syria and the fixing of a date for the ending of political sectarianism in Lebanon," said the sources, who spoke on condition they were not named.

The only outstanding issue is how much power will be wielded by the Lebanese president, traditionally a Maronite Catholic, in the future, the sources added.

The talks were conducted between Mr. Gemayel's three closest aides and Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa and his deputy.

## WAFA disputes reported Arafat statement

TUNIS (R) — The Palestinian news agency WAFA has disputed a Reuters report of an interview with Yasser Arafat in which he said the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) must participate in any Middle East peace conference but implied PLO officials need not attend.

PLO representation at the proposed U.N.-sponsored conference is a key issue, with Israel and the United States refusing to talk to PLO officials.

WAFA said Friday night the Reuters report contained errors and published excerpts from the interview but not remarks by Mr. Arafat. The PLO chairman, implying that PLO officials need not attend.

In the taped interview at his Tunis headquarters on Monday, Mr. Arafat was asked who would be in the PLO delegation. He contradicted answers offered by aides present that representation would simply be "the PLO."

"No, not the PLO. Why say the PLO? It is not necessary to say the PLO... I am against this answer," he said in English.

This was omitted from excerpts published by WAFA, which said the Reuters report contained errors.

Syria's military intelligence chief in Lebanon, Brigadier Ghazi Kanaan.

The three Lebanese, former Foreign Minister Elie Salem, military intelligence chief Simon Kassis and presidential legal adviser Nicolas Nasr, left for Beirut Saturday.

They arrived in Damascus Thursday for their ninth session with the Syrians since January. The Syrian-proposed blueprint has already been endorsed by Lebanon's Muslim leaders, who are backed by Syria.

Mr. Gemayel had earlier been reported as having reservations about proposals that would reduce the Christians' traditional domination of Lebanon's government, legislature, army and judiciary. The text of the Syrian plan has not been published.

But Lebanese press reports

have stated that the proposed reforms would strip the president of his power to veto cabinet decisions and to nominate prime ministers, who by tradition are Sunni Muslims.

Lebanon's estimated 1.9 million-strong Muslim majority is demanding an equal share of power with the country's 1.1 million Christians, who have held power since independence from France in 1943.

Damascus also sent 7,500 troops into west Beirut Feb. 22 to end the militia anarchy and factional fighting.

The image of Syria's west Beirut security plan has been boosted by the release of two Saudi Arabians within three days but the two events were not closely linked, sources quoted by Reuters said.

## Carter arrives in Syria seeking help over hostages

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter arrived in Damascus on Saturday on a key stage of his five-nation Middle East tour amid reports that he might ask Syria to help win the release of American hostages in Lebanon.

He flew in from Cairo, where he accused the Reagan administration of being less committed than his own to the Middle East peace process.

Mr. Carter, greeted at Damascus airport by Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, told reporters he replied, "I am not here carrying President Hafez Al Assad to discuss Middle East, Lebanese and Palestinian issues."

His 16-day tour, which started with a visit to Algeria, will also take Mr. Carter to Jordan and Israel.

Mr. Carter said in Cairo he was not directly involved in talks to free the hostages but would discuss their fate with President Assad and meet people in Syria who have information about them.

Mr. Carter was asked whether his talks with Mr. Assad will cover the hostages.

"Yes, but I don't know what form they (the talks) will take," he replied. "I am not here carrying a message from my government... but I'll certainly urge President Assad, if and when he has any information about the hostages, to add his influence to seek their release."

Twenty-four hostages, includ-

ing eight Americans, are missing in Lebanon, claimed by extremist groups to be in their custody.

Mr. Carter said on Wednesday that he was going to have talks with "some people in Syria who might have new information" about the hostages.

On his controversial remarks about Mr. Reagan, Mr. Carter said in reply to reporters' questions Saturday that "I am not surprised" by White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater's criticism.

Fitzwater said on Friday that the former president erred in accusing Mr. Reagan of resorting to military rather than diplomatic solutions in foreign policy disputes (See page 2).

Mr. Carter said Saturday: "The evidence is very convincing that in my own time in office and that of Presidents Ford and Nixon, there was a constant and an unswerving commitment to the Middle East peace process... that particular commitment has been missing in the last six years," he said.

A few hours before Mr. Carter's arrival, Damascus Radio said the Reagan administration's policy in the Middle East was "purely Israeli, not American."

"The remarks made by a leading American figure (Mr. Carter) have proved the validity of Syria's thinking," the radio said, adding: "Washington has lost the possibility of handling the Middle East problem as a fair arbitrator or mediator."

## GNP registers JD 68.2m increase; Muasher explains measures to encourage investment

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan's gross national product (GNP) rose to JD 1,917.4 million in 1986, registering an increase of JD 68.2 million over the 1985 figures, according to a statistical bulletin issued by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Saturday.

The bulletin said that 1985 figures stood at JD 1,849.2 million. Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, in a television interview on March 14, said that the GNP increased in 1986 by 3.7 per cent and gave other particulars about Jordan's economic progress which, he said, came as a direct result of the government's measures introduced in the past year.

In a television interview on Saturday, Minister of Industry and Trade Rajai Muasher said that the government, since its inception, had worked diligently to create a suitable investment climate and ensure its continuation in Jordan.

For this reason, he said, the government enacted new laws and worked out regulations for stimulating the economic sector and lately drew up a law for encouraging investment which provides for additional exemptions for investors. In addition, he said, the government has been encouraging non-Jordanian Arab citizens to invest in Jordan and

enjoy all benefits available for Jordanians. To move ahead with its programme, the government is enlisting the help of local banks and financial institutions which can provide finance to major projects in the Kingdom, the minister said.

To ensure continued cooperation between the private and the public sectors the government has set up an economic advisory council which is entrusted to work out the basic framework for economic investments and also the strategy of the mutual relationship between the two sectors, Dr. Muasher added.

The minister referred to duty

imposed on national industrial products and said that this duty had to be imposed on products for which the government had provided protection, and the additional revenue was needed by the treasury and was seen as compensation for the loss of revenue that would have otherwise accrued as a result of imports of foreign products.

The minister said Jordan faced two problems, making available foreign funds to finance imports and exports and the problem of unemployment. To deal with the two issues, he said, the country

(Continued on page 3)

## Iraq says Iranian 'decisive' year ended in failure

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq's media said Saturday Iran's promised year of decisiveness in the Gulf war had ended in defeat for Tehran, but warned of a possible new Iranian offensive.

Iran had failed to live up to its pledge to gain a decisive breakthrough in the 6½-year war in the Persian year ending Saturday, they said.

A front-page editorial in the Defence Ministry newspapers Al Qadisiya, said: "Today the year of decisiveness announced by our enemy is ending with a decisive victory in our favour."

Iraq, it said, had crushed 40 Iranian divisions over the past three months in repulsing 50 attacks along the 1,180-kilometre warfront.

The Arabic daily gave no casualty figures. But the head of the Defence Ministry's political department, Major-General Abdul Jabbar Mubsen, earlier this month put Iranian casualties at 250,000 killed and wounded (see related story on page 2).

Iranian forces, trying to break an apparent war stalemate, launched a major drive last December towards the southern port of Basra, Iraq's second city with one million people.

The Iranian offensive captured some Iraqi territory and took the front line to within 10 kilometres of Basra, where residents on Saturday reported all was quiet at the front.

Al Qadisiya and Al Thawra newspapers both warned of a possible new Iranian offensive. "The (Iranian) clique is trying to gather what remains of its forces to send them to their deaths at the hands of Iraqi troops, despite knowing it is a hopeless cause," said Al Qadisiya.

Banners went up in the streets of Baghdad and other Iraqi cities on Saturday as the government organised celebrations.

## Thatcher sees Euromissiles behind new Soviet proposal

TORQUAY, England (AP) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher said Saturday the deployment of U.S. nuclear missiles in Western Europe had prompted the Soviet Union's recent weapons proposal.

"We see the strength and resolve of the West beginning to reap its reward," the British leader told an annual meeting of local Conservative Party activists in this southwest England resort.

"It was the deployment of cruise and Pershing missiles which brought the Russians back to the negotiating table," Mrs. Thatcher said. "The lesson is clear: firmness pays; strength is the surest foundation on which to work for peace."

NATO began deploying U.S. cruise and Pershing 2 nuclear missiles in Britain and other European countries in 1983 in what was described as a response to a buildup of Soviet SS-20s aimed at Western Europe.

Mrs. Thatcher flies to Moscow on March 28 for a five-day visit, which comes a month after Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev proposed that the United States

## Jordanian plans pan-Arab TV broadcasts by end of this year

By John Rice  
The Associated Press

AMMAN — A Jordanian businessman said Saturday he plans to launch a pan-Arab television network by the year's end, relaying educational and cultural programmes by satellite throughout the Arab World.

Ziad Mango said by telephone from his office in Britain that programmes would be bounced off two satellites launched in 1985 by the Arab Satellite Organisation (ASASAT) to existing national television stations.

His Development Office Co., an offshore holding company with a presence in Jordan, last year leased six transponder channels on the satellites.

He said he hoped to complete agreements for transmission facilities by the end of April with

Jordan, Tunisia and Morocco. Technical trial broadcasts will start in summer, he said, and limited programmes are to start in October, with full operation scheduled for Dec. 1.

Eventually, he said, the company plans to relay programmes directly to viewers equipped with small antenna dishes, beginning with material aimed at schools and universities.

"We will be broadcasting large amounts of programming in the daytime, when most television corporations don't broadcast," said Mr. Mango.

Plans call for transmissions from 8:30 to 12:30 a.m. and from 2:30 to 5 p.m. local time for each country, with the emphasis on "educational and training material," Mr. Mango said.

His broadcasting company, Arab Spacecom Corp., has not

yet signed agreements with any country. "But we've talked to a large number of them and they are very happy to go ahead and receive programmes because, really, they need material," Mr. Mango said.

He indicated 12 countries have expressed serious interest and said eight were needed to make the project financially viable. He declined to name the countries with which he said he was negotiating.

Mr. Mango said his company has either contracted or obtained options on about 15,000 hours of programming, which will be dubbed into Arabic, and that it hopes to produce about 45 per cent of its own material within five years.

Total programme expenditure, including original and dubbed

(Continued on page 3)

## Algerian leader pledges continued efforts to end Iran-Iraq conflict

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Algerian President Chadli Benjedid said his country would continue efforts to mediate an end to the Iran-Iraq war, the Kuwait News Agency (KUNA) reported from Algiers.

The agency quoted him Friday night as saying in an interview Algeria had played a pioneering role in efforts to settle differences between the two countries.

"Algeria is working silently away from publicity and will pursue its efforts to convince both warring parties to sit at the negotiating table," he told KUNA.

He called for collective efforts to end the 6½-year-old war, adding that Algeria was also seeking to invite the presidents of Iran and Iraq to Algiers. He would not speculate on whether they would accept an invitation, however.

Algeria, which successfully mediated for release of 50 hostages held at the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1980, emerged as the most qualified party for medi-

ating an end to the Gulf war, now in its seventh year.

Algerian good offices received a setback when Algerian Foreign Minister Mohammed Ibn Yehia was killed in an aircraft crash while on his way to Tehran in 1981.

Mr. Benjedid also said his country could not side with Iraq against Iran because this would make dialogue with the two countries harder.

"I don't think the war would come to an end if Algeria sided with a party against the other. Such a step would deprive us of the opportunity of dialogue at a time when we work for the preservation of contact channels with all sides," Mr. Benjedid told the board chairman of KUNA, Barges Al Barges.

"We work out of a principled attitude that does not believe in ethnic alliances and does not sanction the acquisition of land by force," he said.

"Algeria should not be left

alone in shouldering the brunt of this task. Efforts by other parties are needed," he said.

Mr. Benjedid also said Arab leaders were unanimous on the need to hold an Arab summit once necessary conditions were met.

On relations with Egypt, KUNA quoted him as saying Algeria was not planning to restore ties with Cairo unconditionally.

Algerian support for continued dialogue with Egypt did not mean restoring ties, he said. "It is difficult for Algeria to see its flag hoisted alongside the Israeli flag in Cairo while the Palestinian people are still displaced and daily victims of murder," he added.

Mr. Benjedid urged Arab states to strengthen ties with African countries, saying: "We should not let the Africans feel that we do not need them except when we have problems that require support."

## 1 killed, 25 hurt and many held in Egyptian clashes

CAIRO (Agencies) — One person was killed, 25 were injured and scores arrested in clashes caused by religious extremism in Egypt, police said Saturday.

They said a woman was killed and two injured on Friday in the Nile Delta village of Shabasy Al Shohada when Muslim militants set ablaze seven houses, four of which belonged to Christian Copts, after Friday noon prayers.

The village is some 160 kilometres north-west of Cairo, in an area where Egypt's Christian minority live in small numbers.

Forty-eight people were arrested, including a parliamentarian candidate from the left Unionist Progressive Party, when police clashed with the militants, the Middle East News Agency said.

It said the candidate, Abdul Aziz Abu Harb, exploited a dispute between a Muslim and a Copt over ownership of a piece of land to incite unrest.

Police earlier reported the arrest of 30 Muslim militants in the central Nile valley town of Sohag after a clash in which 11

policemen and 12 demonstrators were injured.

Egypt's interior minister told the semi-official Al-Ahram daily that the sectarian riots in southern Egypt were not provoked by foreign elements but were simply individual, unplanned incidents.

In an interview, Zaki Badr told Al-Ahram that only 27 people remained under investigation out of 188 arrested after riots in the southern Egyptian towns of Beni-Suef, Sohag and Deshna on Feb. 25-26.

"Never," he said in reply to a question as to whether there was a foreign hand provoking internal trouble and religious conflict.

"No one exports terrorism to us, and no one exports sectarian strife and separation between the Muslim and Christian brothers. Everything happened by Egyptian hands and on Egyptian soil."

In the aftermath of the southern riots, which left a mosque and a church damaged by fire and Christian-owned shops looted, columnists warned against rumours, said to be spread by unnamed foreign parties seeking to inflame sectarian feelings.



# Chad claims 786 Libyans killed, 74 captured in first 72 hours

N'DJAMENA (R) — Chad said Saturday its forces killed 402 soldiers and captured 74 in a second round of fighting Friday near the Libyan air base of Ouadi Doum in northern Chad.

A statement from the military high command in the capital, N'Djamena, said government forces shot down two aircraft, including a transport helicopter, at the outpost of Bir-Koura, some 45 kilometres south of the Libyan airfield.

The announcement brings to 786 the number of Libyan soldiers reportedly killed in the last 72 hours of fighting, which the communiqué described as "decisive and fierce."

President Hissene Habre's tough desert fighters "entirely routed" two Libyan columns assigned to the protection of Ouadi Doum, according to Chad's official radio.

In an initial comment, the radio likened this success to the major defeat inflicted on Libya on Jan. 2 at the key oasis of Fada, 200 kilometres south east of Ouadi Doum.

The fighting around Ouadi Doum could be the prelude to a government offensive on Faya-Largeau, Mr. Habre's home and the north's largest town, which has been controlled by Libya since August 1983.

Military analysts said fighting at Bir-Koura appeared to have given Chad control of Libya's

supply line to Ouadi Doum.

They said Mr. Habre's men, who launched a campaign late last year to drive Libyan forces out of northern Chad, appeared to be trying to starve the Ouadi Doum base of supplies.

On Friday, the N'Djamena government said its forces had killed 384 Libyan soldiers and captured 47 others when fighting broke out on Thursday at Bir-Koura.

It also said an Italian-made Marchetti fighter aircraft was shot down.

According to the latest military communiqué, Chadian forces in Friday's encounter destroyed 14 Soviet-made T-55 tanks, eight armoured personnel carriers and two jeeps equipped with ground-to-ground missiles.

They seized a wide assortment of military equipment, including six T-55 tanks, and three jeeps mounted with guns, the statement said.

'Habre, Qadhafi to meet'

In Khartoum, a Sudanese newspaper reported Saturday that Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has agreed to meet Chad's president to seek an end

to the fighting in that country.

The independent daily Al Siassa said Col. Qadhafi and Mr. Habre have agreed in talks with Sudanese government emissaries "on the principles of dialogue and negotiations."

Neither Sudanese government officials nor spokesmen in Tripoli or N'Djamena could be reached for comment on the report, which quoted "high-ranking political sources."

Reached by telephone in the Chadian capital, Nureddin Sati, deputy chief of mission at the Sudanese embassy, said, "we have no knowledge about this ... the embassy in N'Djamena is not in the picture."

Civil war has raged in Chad since it gained independence from France in 1960. The Libyans have been involved directly for several years in the country's northern Aouzou Strip, just south of the Libyan border, which Col. Qadhafi claimed in 1973 as part of his country.

Sudanese Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi sponsored peace talks in Khartoum early this month, but a senior Chadian official said the negotiations collapsed on the first day.

"The Libyan side came to the negotiating table with the concept of solving a problem between Chadians," said the official, who spoke on condition his name not be used. "The Libyans were of

the opinion that there is no problem between Libya and Chad."

Col. Qadhafi contends Mr. Habre is a usurper leading rebel forces against what he considers the legitimate government, now led by tribal chieftain Acheikh Omar, whom Col. Qadhafi is supporting with more than 10,000 troops.

Al Siassa, the Khartoum newspaper, reported that Col. Qadhafi and Mr. Habre will meet soon in the Sudanese capital.

It quoted Ahmad Saad Omar, Sudan's ambassador in Tripoli, as saying Mr. Habre had sent his interior minister to Algeria to meet with Mr. Goukouni Oueddei, whom Mr. Habre ousted in 1983 as Chad's president. Col. Qadhafi recognised Mr. Goukouni as Chad's president until last fall, when the Chadian backed out of the alliance with most of the troops loyal to him.

The idea of meeting with Mr. Goukouni, Al Siassa reported, was to "unify Chadian factions prior to reaching a political agreement" to end the fighting.

The newspaper also quoted Sudan's former Ambassador to N'Djamena, Al Tayeb Humaida, as saying Mr. Habre's government had "shown understanding" about the recent "presence and withdrawal" of Libyan troops in western Sudan.

## White House disappointed by Carter's criticism

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House has criticised former President Jimmy Carter for highly critical comments he made about President Reagan's policies in a speech in Cairo Thursday.

Mr. Carter, who is on a Middle East tour, denounced what he called the "missing leadership" in Washington and in sharply critical language faulted the president for lack of a forceful policy in the search for a Middle East peace.

"I think we are deeply disappointed by his comments and if he wants to be helpful in foreign affairs, he might want to forgo criticisms of U.S. leaders while on foreign soil," Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters Friday.

Mr. Carter's criticism of Mr. Reagan's Middle East policy echoed comments made by many other former officials but it is unusual for former presidents to air such complaints.

In his Cairo speech Mr. Carter said Mr. Reagan "is more inclined to form a contra army to overthrow the Sandinistas (in Nicaragua) or inject the Marines into Lebanon or use American battleships to shell villages around Beirut" than to seek negotiated solutions in foreign policy disputes.

Meanwhile in Moscow, an official Soviet newspaper quoted former U.S. President Jimmy Carter Saturday as saying in an interview that he strongly opposed the Reagan administration's "Star Wars" programme.

"Why am I against Star Wars? First, it does not have anything in common with an anti-missile defence. It is an offensive weapon, and only offensive," Mr. Carter was quoted as saying in the youth daily Komsomolskaya Pravda.

## Kuwait welcomes U.S. protection of Gulf shipping against Iranian attack

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait was reported Saturday to welcome U.S. navy protection of oil shipping against possible Iranian missile attacks in the Strait of Hormuz, entrance to the Gulf.

"If Washington is willing to protect international navigation to ensure the flow of oil to the United States and its friends and allies, these will undoubtedly appreciate such protection," the newspaper Al Qabas quoted an unidentified high official of the Defence Ministry as saying.

"Kuwait is committed to the defence of its own territory and the protection of its own borders. But there are (international) laws that govern navigation in international waters," he said.

The official echoed previous statements by Gulf leaders that defence of free navigation in Gulf international waters should be left to the United States and other powers that import oil from the region.

He was commenting on U.S. officials' statements of commitment to the protection of free flow of oil through the Straits of Hormuz.

The U.S. has informed Iran of its concern about Iran's stationing of anti-ship missiles on the shores of the Strait of Hormuz. The U.S. navy has moved an aircraft carrier battle group to within range of the missiles.

Assistant Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), Ibrahim Al Sobhi, was meanwhile quoted as telling the Kuwaiti magazine Al Majales that protection of navigation in the Gulf's international waters "is not the responsibility of the GCC powers."

He insisted that the whole world move to fend off dangers impeding free shipping in the Gulf lanes.

"The GCC countries will protect shipping only within their

own territorial waters," he said.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman in an economic integration and collective defence pact.

Iran attacks commercial vessels in the southern neutral sector of the Gulf in retaliation for Iraqi raids on tankers calling at the key Iranian Kharg Island oil terminal at the head of the waterway.

Mr. Sobhi deplored raids on commercial vessels under this so-called "tanker war," which is an offshoot of the Iran-Iraq war that broke out in 1980.

He called for a coexistence formula between Iran and the rest of the Gulf countries once the war is over.

Kuwait and other Gulf states had some time ago asked Washington to help protect commercial shipping in the Gulf against Iranian attacks, according to recent statements by U.S. officials.

The statements were made shortly after disclosure of Iran's recent deployment of Chinese-built HY-2 missiles aimed at the Strait of Hormuz, sharpening tensions in the oil-rich region.

In Washington, Iraqi Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun met Friday with a senior State Department official about U.S. efforts to stop the flow of arms to Iran.

The meeting with Edward Derwinski came and its battle groups within range of Iran's missile batteries aimed at the Strait of Hormuz.

Mr. Derwinski, undersecretary of state-designate and a former Republican congressman, will be the new head of the State Department Office on Arms Transfers.

A State Department official said his meeting with Mr. Hamdoun was part of Mr. Derwinski's job as head of "Operation Staunch," the programme for keeping arms out of Iranian

hands.

The official, who spoke on condition that he not be named, said he had no further information on the meeting.

"Operation Staunch" is separate from the covert operation that was run from the White House by Lt.-Col. Oliver North for selling arms to Iran. It has the opposite purpose: persuading U.S. allies not to sell arms to Iran and halting private clandestine sales from this country.

The United States is officially neutral in the war.

State Department spokesman Charles Redman told reporters he had nothing to say on any effort by other governments in the area to get new weapons to counter Iran's missiles.

Mr. Redman said the United States has informed Iran through the Swiss government of its concern about the Iranian missiles, called HY-2s or Silkworms. They carry about 400 kilograms of explosives. He said he had no information about a reply.

"These missiles raise the level of danger and risk to non-belligerents in the war as they are a potential threat to international shipping," Mr. Redman said.

U.S. officials, who refused to be quoted by name, said Thursday that navy vessels may soon start escorting cargo ships bound for Kuwait, an important oil supplier whose production is shipped through the strait.

Iran and Iraq, both exporters of oil, have repeatedly attacked tankers belonging to neutral countries as part of their efforts to cripple one another's trade. Iranian attacks have been increasing.

"It is well known that we are committed to the free flow of oil through the Strait of Hormuz," Mr. Redman said. "We attach great importance to freedom of navigation in international waters."

## Khomeini appeals for Iranian unity

LONDON (R) — Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini called Saturday for unity in the country, particularly amongst its leaders, on the first day of the Iranian New Year.

"Those living in this country, from whatever strata and tribe they may be, particularly those in charge, should... safeguard their

fraternity and remain brothers," Khomeini said in an address broadcast by Tehran Radio.

Iran was at "a big sensitive juncture," he said in his speech monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

"I beseech Almighty God to safeguard the unity amongst all organs, between the Majlis (par-

liament) and the government, between the judicial power and other people and amongst all strata of the nation," Khomeini said.

While he did not mention Iran's 6½-year-old war with Iraq directly, he said that although the people had given martyrs, they had maintained their unity.

## Iraq says Iran lost 250,000 men in 3 months

AMMAN (Petra) — Iraq's Ambassador to Jordan Ghafel Jassem Hussein issued a statement in Amman on Saturday in which he said that the Iraqis have lost nearly one quarter of a million men, dead or injured, in the last three months along the battlefield.

He said that the past two months witnessed some of the fiercest battle between the Iranian and Iraqi forces along the whole length of the front, but mainly in the southern front.

In his statement the ambassador said that the Iranian rulers had fixed a target, the end of the Persian year, for achieving a decisive victory in the war, "but the year is now over and the Iraqis have achieved nothing despite their huge losses over the past seven years and despite the vast military hardware they brought into the battlefield."

"The Iranian aggressors will never achieve any success no matter how long the war drags on, and the Iranian people will continue to confront more sufferings and disasters as a result of the adventures of the rulers in Tehran," the statement said.

## Senate cites Gen. Secord for contempt

WASHINGTON (USIA) — By unanimous consent, the Senate has approved a resolution to cite Richard Secord, a retired air force officer and key witness in the Iran-contra affair, for contempt of Congress.

The action was a first step in compelling Gen. Secord to release information regarding foreign bank records under his control which could shed light on how money from the Iran arms sales may have been channelled

to Nicaraguan contras.

Last month, the Senate select committee investigating the Iran-contra affair ordered Gen. Secord to appear before it and produce those records or sign a waiver giving up his rights.

## Japanese books highlight Jewish conspiracy

LONDON — The Jews are plotting to destroy Japan, as part of an international Jewish conspiracy to take over the world, according to no less than a dozen books published in Japan in recent months.

Japan's poor economic performance last year — its worst for 12 years — appears to have prompted a resurgence of Jewish conspiracy literature, with numerous books blaming Jews for the tougher financial climate.

One of the most popular anti-Jewish authors is Masami Uno, whose books sell by the hundreds of thousands, and who wrote

recently that American Jews have begun "a targeted bashing of Japan." He claims that American Jewry was responsible for the Lockheed bribery scandal, which brought down Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka; for the Great Depression; and for the rise of South Korea as an economic power.

A report on the phenomenon, published in the Guardian Thursday, added that Aisaburo Saito, a member of the Japanese Diet (parliament), had penned a volume entitled The Secret of Jewish Power to Control the World, while the top executive of

McDonalds in Japan was responsible for the cynically titled The Jewish Way of Blowing a Millionaire's Bugle.

Also selling well in the bookstores of Tokyo is Toru Kawajiri's Scenario for Annihilation, which maintains that no more than 200,000 Jews could possibly have perished in Hitler's gas chambers.

At most, 200 Jewish families live in Japan, and almost all of them are foreigners; the Jewish community is said to be bewildered as to the cause of this spate of anti-Semitic verbiage — The Jerusalem Post.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

|                                    |  |
|------------------------------------|--|
| JORDAN TELEVISION                  | 23:00 News Summary   |
| Tel: 77111-19                      | 23:57 News Headline  |
|                                    | 24:00 Close Down   |
| PROGRAMME ONE                      | BBC WORLD SERVICE  |
| 15:30 Koran                        | 639, 720, 123 KHz  |
| 15:30 Programme Review             |  |
| 15:35 Health Clinic                | 06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Folk Entertainers                                 |
| 16:00 Wild Fire                    | 06:45 Reflections 06:50 Financial Review                               |
| 16:35 A Whole World of Children    | 07:00 World News 07:30 24 Hours News Summary                           |
| 17:00 Risking It All               | 07:45 Local Series   |
| 17:30 Candid Camera                | 08:00 Newsdesk 08:30 Choirs of Britain                                 |
| 18:15 Local Agricultural Programme | 09:00 World News 09:30 24 Hours News Summary                           |
| 18:40 Local Series                 | 09:50 Waveguide 10:00 World News 10:05 Reflections                     |
| 19:20 Local Programme              | 10:15 The Pleasure's 11:00 World News                                  |
| 19:50 Programme Review             | 11:00 British Press 11:45 Action 12:45 At Home with 12:50 News Summary |
| 20:00 News in Arabic               | 12:50 World News 12:55 Classical Record Review                         |
| 20:30 Arabic Series                | 12:55 Religious Service 13:00 World News                               |
| 21:40 Local programme              | 13:00 News from Arabia and Britain                                     |
| 21:55 Tomorrow's programmes        | 13:15 From Our Own Correspondent                                       |
| 22:00 TV Magazine (Arabic)         | 13:20 As the Court of 14:00 News Summary                               |
| 23:00 News summary in Arabic       | 14:30 Play of the Week: Intimate Exchanges                             |
| 23:10 Arabic Series                | 15:00 World News 15:05 24 Hours News Summary                           |

|               |                                    |
|---------------|------------------------------------|
| PROGRAMME TWO | 17:15 Les Cinq dernières           |
|               | 17:30 News in French               |
|               | 17:35 Proude a la mit              |
|               | 17:35 News in Hebrew               |
|               | 17:45 Varieties                    |
|               | 17:50 News in Arabic               |
|               | 18:30 Who's the Boss               |
|               | 21:10 The Day the Universe Changed |
|               | 22:00 News in English              |
|               | 22:30 Spearfish's Daughter         |

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM & partly on 9560 KHz, SW  
Tel: 77111-19

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 07:00 Light Music            | 07:30 Newsdesk               |
| 07:30 News                   | 08:00 Morning Show           |
| 08:00 News Summary           | 11:00 In Concert             |
| 11:00 In Concert             | 12:00 News Summary           |
| 12:00 News Summary           | 12:05 Pop Talk               |
| 12:05 Pop Talk               | 13:00 News Summary           |
| 13:00 News Summary           | 13:05 Pop Session cont.      |
| 13:05 Pop Session cont.      | 14:00 News Bulletin          |
| 14:00 News Bulletin          | 14:10 Instrumentals          |
| 14:10 Instrumentals          | 14:15 Science Report         |
| 14:15 Science Report         | 15:00 Concert Hour           |
| 15:00 Concert Hour           | 16:00 News Summary           |
| 16:00 News Summary           | 16:05 Instrumentals          |
| 16:05 Instrumentals          | 16:30 Old Favorites          |
| 16:30 Old Favorites          | 17:00 Listeners' Choice      |
| 17:00 Listeners' Choice      | 18:00 News Summary           |
| 18:00 News Summary           | 18:05 Jazz Hour              |
| 18:05 Jazz Hour              | 19:30 Newsdesk               |
| 19:30 Newsdesk               | 20:00 Date with a Star       |
| 20:00 Date with a Star       | 20:00 Evening Show           |
| 20:00 Evening Show           | 21:00 News Summary           |
| 21:00 News Summary           | 21:05 Evening Show continued |
| 21:05 Evening Show continued | 21:55 News Summary           |
| 21:55 News Summary           | 22:00 Evening Show continued |
| 22:00 Evening Show continued |                              |

TODAY'S EVENTS

EXHIBITIONS

"An exhibition of paintings by Adam Yehya at the Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman, 1st Circle (until March 23).

"An exhibition of photographs by French artist entitled "L'Oeil et l'Orbelle" at the French Cultural Centre (until March 27).

LECTURE

Professor Paul Anasah, Fulbright Professor of English Literature at Aleppo University, Syria, will give a presentation in Arabic on the literature of Arab immigrants in North America and its cross-cultural impact at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre.

PLAY

"Arabic plays for children daily at 10:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 31).

"Bernard Shaw's play entitled "Pygmalion" presented by the students of the National Orthodox School at 8:00 p.m. at the Royal Cultural Centre (until March 24).

CULTURAL CENTRES

|                         |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Royal Cultural Centre   | Tel. 6610267 |
| American Centre Library | 641520       |
| British Council         | 6361478      |
| French Cultural Centre  | 637009       |
| Goethe Institute        | 641993       |
| Soviet Cultural Centre  | 644203       |
| Spanish Cultural Centre | 624049       |
| Turkish Cultural Centre | 639777       |
| Haya Arts Centre        | 665195       |
| Husseini Youth City     | 6671816      |
| Y.W.C.A.                | 641793       |
| Y.W.M.C.A.              | 646251       |
| Amman Municipal Library | 637111       |
| Univ. of Jordan Library | 843555       |

MUSEUMS

"Children's Heritage and Science Museum." Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday.

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06) 53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 09:00 Agaba (RJ)                        | 09:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)    |
| 09:25 Jeddah (RJ)                       | 10:00 Kuwait (RJ)              |
| 10:00 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)                | 10:30 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)        |
| 10:35 London (RJ)                       | 10:40 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) |
| 10:45 Athens (RJ)                       | 10:45 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) |
| 10:45 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) | 10:45 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)      |
| 10:45 Paris (RJ)                        | 10:45 Rome (RJ)                |
| 10:45 Baghdad (RJ)                      |                                |

OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2)

|   |                                |
|---|--------------------------------|
| 06:25 Bucharest (RO)                    | 06:30 Berlin, Larnaca (RJ)     |
| 06:30 Cairo (RJ)                        | 06:35 Kuwait (RJ)              |
| 06:40 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)                | 06:45 Cairo, Agaba (RJ)        |
| 06:50 London (RJ)                       | 06:55 New York, Amsterdam (RJ) |
| 06:55 Athens (RJ)                       | 06:55 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ) |
| 06:55 Los Angeles, Chicago, Vienna (RJ) | 06:55 Madrid, Geneva (RJ)      |
| 06:55 Paris (RJ)                        | 06:55 Rome (RJ)                |
| 06:55 Baghdad (RJ)                      |                                |

DEPARTURES ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1)

|                                    |                              |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 06:45 Agaba (RJ)                   | 10:30 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ) |
| 10:30 Vienna, New York (RJ)        | 11:30 Athens (RJ)            |
| 11:30 Cairo (RJ)                   | 11:30 Kuwait, Abu Dhabi (RJ) |
| 11:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ) | 11:30 Jeddah (RJ)            |
| 11:30 Damascus (RJ)                | 12:00 Cairo (RJ)             |
| 12:00 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)           | 12:00 Bangkok (RJ)           |

EMERGENCIES

|                             |                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Amman governorate           | 891228              |
| Amman Civil Defence         | 198, 199            |
| Civil Defence Irbid         | 271293, 27331       |
| Civil Defence Qusweish      | 770733              |
| Civil Defence Jericho       | 57505               |
| Amman downtown fire brigade | 198                 |
| First aid                   | 630341              |
| Blood Bank                  | 778303              |
| Civil Defence rescue        | 661111              |
| Fire headquarters           | 660433              |
| Police rescue               | 192, 621111, 637777 |
| Police headquarters         | 639141              |
| Traffic police              | 8963901             |
| Electric Power Co.          | 636316, 624081      |
| Municipal water complaints  | 7711258             |
| Queen Alia Int. Airport     | (06)5333060         |

PRAYER TIMES

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 04:17 Fajr   | 05:36 Sunrise |
| 11:43 Dhuhur | 15:10 'Asr    |
| 15:10 'Asr   | 19:07 'Isha   |

MONEY EXCHANGE

|                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Belgian franc          | 88.8 / 89.6   |
| Dutch guilder          | 162.6 / 163.9 |
| French franc           | 55.3 / 55.8   |
| Italian lire           | 22.8 / 26.2   |
| Japanese yen (for 100) | 224 / 224.4   |
| Swedish crown          | 52.6 / 53.1   |
| Swiss franc            | 219.4 / 221.8 |
| U.K. sterling pound    | 54.9 / 54.9   |
| U.S. dollar            | 336.9 / 339.3 |
| W. German mark         | 183.8 / 185.8 |

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

MARKET PRICES

|                                   |           |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Upper/lower price in \$/kg per kg |           |
| Apple (All kinds)                 | 600 / 500 |
| Banana                            | 130 / 180 |
| Banana (Mukammur)                 | 120 / 70  |
| Beans                             | 460 / 360 |
| Brood beans                       | 120 / 80  |
| Cabbage                           | 100 / 70  |
| Carrot (yellow)                   | 70 / 50   |
| Carrot (white)                    | 120 / 80  |
| Carrot (yellow)                   | 120 / 80  |
| Carrot (white)                    | 120 / 80  |
| Chestnut                          | 500 / 400 |
| Chickens (small)                  | 180 / 140 |
| Eggplant (small)                  | 130 / 90  |
| Eggplant (large)                  | 170 / 100 |
| Garlic (dry)                      | 600 / 500 |
| Grapefruit                        | 130 / 180 |
| Lemon                             | 120 / 70  |
| Marrow                            | 100 / 70  |
| Onion (dry)                       | 150 / 100 |
| Onion (Ala Surra)                 | 320 / 280 |
| Orange (Shamouti)                 | 250 / 180 |
| Peas                              | 320 / 160 |
| Pepper (hot)                      | 400 / 300 |
| Pepper (sweet)                    | 280 / 220 |
| Potato                            | 150 / 100 |
| Radish                            | 70 / 50   |
| Spinach                           | 170 / 100 |
| Turnip                            | 90 / 60   |
| Tomatoes                          | 70 / 50   |



## Charitable society intensifies campaign to help needy neurological patients

By Najwa Najjar  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Early detection of neurological diseases could greatly improve a patient's chances of overcoming the disease, according to a physician at the Society for Care of Neurological Patients. The physician, who asked not to be named, noted with regret that the suffering of these patients continues because they cannot afford the expensive treatment.

The physician expressed hope that the specialised centre at the Palestine Hospital would provide the best medical treatment for needy patients at reduced rates. Through fund-raisers, the society plans to establish a charitable fund which will extend financial help to patients at the centre. "We hope we will be able to cover 80 per cent of the patients' expenses," he said.

The physician said that the fund is to be located at Palestine Hospital because it was the only medical institution in Amman that showed interest in training programme in neurological sciences offered by the University of Toronto.

Neurological diseases, defined as any abnormality of the brain, the spinal cord or periphery nerves, are caused by infectious diseases to the nervous system, congenital abnormalities, head injuries resulting from road and traffic accidents, and injuries resulting during complicated deliveries. Three patients at the centre suffer from the first two causes, and their parents told their stories.

A year ago Ghadeer's parents were told that their child was going to die. When she was three months old, Ghadeer was afflicted by meningitis causing a blockage to blood circulation in her brain. Her father, a taxi driver from Karak, watched his daughter suffer from an enlarged head, loss of appetite, vomiting and continuous crying, as he did not have the funds to seek proper medical attention. "I went to a rich relative of mine to ask for help, but he slammed the door in my face saying 'I only give alms to the poor during Ramadan,'" recalled the father bitterly.

Ironically it was a Swiss charitable organisation, Terre des Hommes, in Marka which extended help to Ghadeer's parents. After an operation Ghadeer returned to normal, and it was hard to believe that there was ever anything wrong with the little girl, now full of life and energy.

Fadia, also had meningitis, but she was not as lucky as Ghadeer. As a result of poor diagnosis and lost time, one of Fadia's eyes does not close fully and her mouth has become slanted side-



Many children born with or suffering from neurological diseases can be helped to recover if they are treated early — however, many parents cannot afford surgery when it is needed.

ways. As Fadia sat quietly, her mother showed reporters the four head operations her five-year old child had to endure. "Everytime I heard of a good doctor I went to him, but these operations are so costly, and with her father working as a labourer how can we possibly afford it?" asked the mother. She said that now she needs funds for a brain scan but none of the ministries were willing to help her.

"A lot of patients who do not have money come to the hospital. As doctors we are put in an awkward position," the physician admitted. For example Fadia was born with a congenital abnormality in her spinal cord and needed surgery immediately, he explained. Her father owns a small sweets shop in Zarqa and was not able to cover the costs of treatment. Therefore, doctors at Palestine Hospital and from other financial institutions had to donate their services free, "how can we turn away a patient in critical condition?" the physician asked.

Dalia was not the only patient to receive doctor's care free of charge, to date the six patients treated by the society had only paid nominal fees for their treatment. "We hope that the charitable fund at Palestine Hospital will relieve patients from having to go around asking for donations, sometimes just to cover the minimum costs," said the physician.

### Sponsored walk

The first function, the society is organising to raise funds, is a 420-kilometre walk from Ramtha to Aqaba. The sponsored walk is to start on April 1 until April 10. Participants can join any of the stages, but they must register by March 25 at Nadi (club) Al Ramtha, Nadi Al Ahli, Nadi Ma'an or Nadi Aqaba. Those who join the walk without sponsors have to pay a JD 5 fee in the

Amman stage, and a JD 3 fee for the Ramtha/Aqaba stages. All donations and sponsorships are tax deductible. And for further incentive Royal Jordanian has offered free tickets to New York, Singapore, Vienna, Istanbul, Larnaca and Aqaba for the first six participants who collect the largest amounts of money.

He said that His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards convening the conference were recently backed by twelve-state European Community which issued their Brussels declaration favouring Jordan's concept.

Mr. Lawzi said that the Arab-Israeli conflict could be resolved through peaceful means and under the auspices of the United Nations. He said the conference should be attended by all concerned parties and by the five members of the U.N. Security Council and should be based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338.

The speaker reviewed Israel's drive to evict the indigenous Arab population from their homeland, its confiscation of Arab territory and its attempt to change the topographic and demographic character of the occupied territories.

Mr. Lawzi hailed Jordanian-Soviet relations which, he said, were steadily developing under the leaderships of King Hussein and Mikhail Gorbachev.

## Lawzi briefs Soviet team on Mideast conference

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi on Saturday received a Soviet delegation from the Institute of African Studies in Moscow and briefed them on Jordan's commitment towards convening an international peace conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Lawzi told members of the delegation that the Kingdom remained committed to convening the conference as the basis to reach a comprehensive, peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

He said that His Majesty King Hussein's efforts towards convening the conference were recently backed by twelve-state European Community which issued their Brussels declaration favouring Jordan's concept.

## Jordanian plans pan-Arab TV

(Continued from page 1) material, will cost about \$2.5 billion over five years, he said.

The programmes "have to be politically, religiously and culturally neutral, otherwise they will not be acceptable to a large number of countries," he said.

A review panel of national representatives will screen the programmes, he said, and his 18-member executive board — to be announced next month — will select those to be shown.

He said dubbing "already is under way in Syria," and he said his companies have obtained a "half-interest in Tunis-based Zini Films."

"We hope also to be producing in Jordan and Morocco," he said. Mr. Mango said marketing studies indicated a potential for advertising.

"The large corporations... are not really interested to make a serious effort at the market because they consider it so fragmented," he said. "But once we offered them the whole market in one swipe, there is a potential market of some 80 million... then the whole thing makes sense to them."

The company also plans to use its satellite resources to carry commercial data transmissions.

He said his companies have invested about \$68 million since 1971, and he said he expects the operating to start with a budget of about \$60 million a year, reaching \$500 million by the end of three years, when he expects it to return a profit.

AMMAN — Having all the facilities and qualified personnel to provide services is not enough to score plus points with air passengers, but the manner and efficiency with which services are presented are decisive factors in attracting passenger traffic, according to Akel Biltaji, vice-president for airport services of the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ).

No matter how beautiful your product and your aeroplanes, the whole story of making your airline a success will be "counter productive," if you (company employees) don't present yourselves as experienced persons... well-aware and totally confident in the know-how and service facilities you possess, he told an RJ conference which opened here on Saturday.

"On time, all the time," is the main theme of the two-day conference on airport services which is attended by RJ's 42 station managers abroad. The theme was chosen to consolidate recent

## Jordan marks 19th anniversary of victory in Karameh Battle

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan on Saturday celebrated the 19th anniversary of the Battle of Karameh during which the Jordanian Armed Forces repelled an Israeli invasion across the River Jordan and won a victory.

Armed Forces Commander in Chief General Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker patronised the main ceremony near the Unknown Soldiers' monument near the battle site in the Jordan Valley.

Gen. Sharif Zaid and the guests laid wreaths at the monument and recited verses of the Koran. At the outset of the ceremony, the Armed Forces Mufti delivered a speech in which he praised the Jordanian forces and servicemen for their heroic fight against the invading force, and he paid tribute to the martyrs who fell in the battle in defence of the homeland.

Gen. Sharif Zaid toured the battle area and later reviewed an exhibition of portraits of the martyrs.

Yarmouk University contributed to the ceremony, dispatching a delegation of teachers and students led by Dr. Khaled Al Omari who made a brief speech paying tribute to the Armed Forces.

Yarmouk University organised a cross country race at the site of the Karameh Battle in commemoration of the martyrs. The race kicked off from Karameh town in the vicinity, and ended at

the Martyrs' Monument.

Taking part in the race were members of the armed forces, government schools as well as Yarmouk University and the University of Jordan. The race was won by Abdullah Khalaf from the University of Jordan and Abdulrahman Mansour from the Fourth Royal Mechanised Division and Ali Khalif from the Fifth Royal Armoured Division who took first, second and third places.

Towards the end of the celebration, Gen. Sharif Zaid distributed cups and medals to the winners. Among those attending the celebration were Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb, senior armed forces officers, Balqa Governor Mijhem Al Khreisheh, Yarmouk University President Mohammad Hamdan and local officials.

## Efficiency, personnel care for passengers spell success for an airline, RJ official says

By Rana Sabbagh  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Having all the facilities and qualified personnel to provide services is not enough to score plus points with air passengers, but the manner and efficiency with which services are presented are decisive factors in attracting passenger traffic, according to Akel Biltaji, vice-president for airport services of the national carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ).

No matter how beautiful your product and your aeroplanes, the whole story of making your airline a success will be "counter productive," if you (company employees) don't present yourselves as experienced persons... well-aware and totally confident in the know-how and service facilities you possess, he told an RJ conference which opened here on Saturday.

"On time, all the time," is the main theme of the two-day conference on airport services which is attended by RJ's 42 station managers abroad. The theme was chosen to consolidate recent

efforts undertaken by RJ's management to overcome obstacles posed to progress and development caused by the depressed Middle Eastern economy, the political environment and the international slump in the airline industry.

These measures, announced last December, included launching new strategies to market the Kingdom's East and West Banks, tapping new international markets, changing the airline's name from Alia to RJ and introducing new colours and designs for RJ aircraft, employee uniforms, stationery, signs, ticket offices and public premises in Jordan and abroad.

The new corporate image and identity, was further strengthened with new strategies in the areas of customer services, restructuring of marketing plans, opening new routes and modernisation of the fleet, manpower development and improvement of international relations.

However, Mr. Biltaji, who has held various senior posts within RJ, said: "If the new concepts of inflight services are not offered properly, passengers are apt to start condemning the airline."

Mr. Biltaji strongly believes an air traveller's reaction to an airline is related to four psychological stages any passenger planning to travel was bound to undergo: hesitation, determination, frustration and anticipation which could easily turn into condemnation.

Stage one for a passenger is the common question: "Should I travel? where to? Which aircraft shall I choose and who is offering me something new." Stage two — determination — ticket purchasing amidst competition. His choice will depend on the company's services, safety and spirit (the three marketing S's) and a reasonable price.

### 'Frustration'

The critical stage is frustration travellers undergo before boarding the plane from the minute they leave their homes and hotels to the boarding time, he said. The vice-president recounted the

story of "an average frustrated traveller" encountering 16 snags — traffic congestion, porters' rudeness, four police searches, a body detection machine, paying a JD 15 departure tax, mis-labelling tickets, boarding gates, finding an inappropriate seat and finally sitting there ready for take off. "By the time the passenger boards the plane, his frustrations have reached a high peak, that is, if he's not already a nervous wreck," said Mr. Biltaji.

Meanwhile, the last phase could be described as the most critical, since it is an accumulation of all the previous experiences and the beginning of a new stage of thinking: "Whose waiting for me at the airport, my wife, husband, girlfriend, company representative. Will I get there on time? etc..." he said.

"Without the human element and personalised treatment, we won't be getting much out of the product and new corporate identity we possess," the vice president told his station managers at the Alia Gateway Hotel.

The two-day meeting also discussed RJ's security facilities, airport services, the 1987 summer flights schedule, cargo, contracts, agreements, coordination, flight operations, flight crews and station management, handling agreements, technical handling, catering and menus and the outlook of flight attendants.

In his opening remarks to the conference, RJ Director General Mahmoud Jamal Balqaz denounced "favouritism," practiced by station managers vis-a-vis passengers and called for equal and personal treatment to be offered to all the airline's passengers.

Mr. Balqaz also reviewed a list of the station managers' duties including doing their utmost to return lost baggage, making passengers feel more important and comfortable, not moving economy passengers to the first class section and to facilitate the work of sky marshals responsible for the plane's safety. "Always put yourselves in the shoes of others and try to maintain an excellent quality of ground services and facilities," said the director general.

## Striking, evocative photographs of Egypt

By Meg Abu Hamdan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The second in a series of activities to be held at the French Cultural Centre this spring is their current exhibition of provocative, stimulating and at times shocking photographs. Taken by the well-known French photographers Edouard Boubat and Michel Delaborde the images portray two very different views of one country, Egypt, the place both photographers chose out of the four countries whose French Cultural Centres — in Cairo, Alexandria, Baghdad, Amman and Damascus, are sponsoring this event.

Edouard Boubat, the more established of the two used classical techniques of striking, well composed, beautifully lit and untampered photographs to show the Egypt he saw. In strong black and white images he contrasted and compared the urban and rural poor of the country, the squalor and filth of the sprawling slums of the city with the calm and content he felt in the villages. As well as the differences, Boubat also noticed and recorded a similarity between the two groups — the same smiling, bright congenial faces, which he found no matter the conditions in which the people lived.

### Shanty towns

No photograph conveys so graphically just how bad these conditions can be that Boubat's images of the shanty towns made primarily of junk, rubbish and corrugated iron. Seemingly endless, these towns extend as far as the eye can see through rising spirals of smoke. In the midst of it all, Boubat manages to capture a small child playing or perhaps a donkey — signs of life and hope that make a potentially unendurable sight, endurable.

Another image. Old houses, falling into disrepair forms a backdrop to a street scene in which a sleeping dog, a dirty curtain, an abandoned market barrow and a rubbish cluttered pavement play their parts. In front of all a child runs laughing to his mother.

With these images Boubat plays a clever, double-handed game. Through his classical techniques he seems to be making a clear, documentary statement about life in today's overcrowded cities wherever they are in the world. Yet with the people that always manage to find their way into his work he moves us, stirs our inward emotions thus turning cool objective images into warm, very personal tributes to the resilience of man.

### Rural peace

Boubat's portrayal of rural life is altogether much more enjoyable. Instantly after the oppressive fifth and stress of the city one is aware of the clean, fresh air of the countryside. Above all one is aware of the innate rural peace. Boubat has caught to perfection the outward and inward calm that comes not only from the atmosphere or from the people sitting quietly in the shade, but also from the way they carry out their daily chores — the gathering of the reeds for their fire by camel or by donkey, fishing or baking the bread — age old tasks that have been carried out in the same way since the beginning of time.

In direct contrast to Boubat, Michel Delaborde is an essential experimental photographer who is fascinated by symmetry and texture almost to the exclusion of all else, especially people, who feature rarely in his work. Delaborde seems to view Egypt in terms of how its different elements could be used to form



Graffiti and paint splattered walls of uneven concrete and chipped plasterwork (photo by Michel Delaborde)

abstract patterns and designs, wielding his camera much as an artist would, his brush and canvas. The resulting collages or groupings of images vary in effectiveness ranging from rather dull and uninspired to extremely stimulating, the latter being epitomised by such images as the flower pots weaving up each side of an old window in wobbly piles. The three views of the same sunlit stairway — each slightly different view emphasising the pleasing repetition of form — or the two trunks of the palm tree framing, along with a rough stone wall in which every crevice and protrusion can almost be touched, a dilapidated arched doorway, or the arrangement of clovepots of different wooden grills — *mashrabiyah* — whose old geometry contrasts with the stones and wire stacked behind them. All are collections of different textures, shapes and forms one enhancing the other in bold and balanced compositions.

Even Delaborde's straight images, i.e., single shots of a single scene are more often than not close ups of a graffiti or paint splattered wall resulting in totally abstract images interested in the way arbitrarily applied colours can become, when isolated and confined, vibrant aesthetic images in their own right. At other times these straight images show us the symmetry with which we all surround ourselves — like the weaving floral designs of the blue wrought iron bars across a window, the drawings painted on either side of the same window that balance each other and much, much more.

### Details of a scene

Like a microscope, Delaborde draws our attention to the details of a scene, makes us aware of the tremendous variety of textures around us and of how even the simplest most mundane of objects are organised and controlled by man to achieve unexpected, uncontrived and instinctive harmony that is all important.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mafrag graduates People's Army cadets

MAFRAQ (Petra) — A group of People's Army recruits graduated here Saturday after completing their training course. The 300 member group, all male secondary school students, have been trained in the use of light arms, civil defence and first aid operations and received physical fitness training. The graduation ceremony was attended by the Mafrag governor who distributed awards to those excelling in their performance.

### Assad, Pakistani envoy discuss education

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Higher Education Nassereddin Al Assad received Pakistani Ambassador to Jordan Sagheer Hussein on Saturday for discussions on means to boost bilateral relations in education-related affairs. Dr. Assad and Mr. Hussein also discussed guidelines for signing an executive programme of the Jordanian-Pakistani cultural agreement. Both sides also discussed scholarships and seats allocated for students at Jordanian and Pakistani universities as provided for under the agreement.

### Labour teams make inspection visits

ZARQA (Petra) — Ministry of Labour personnel have begun to make field inspection visits to industrial and trade institutions in Zarqa Governorate to check that employers are abiding by the labour law. The inspection team fined a number of factory owners and companies for violating labour rules set by the ministry. Public safety personnel also seized out of date foodstuffs weighing approximately one and a half tonnes. The violators have been referred to court.

### Madaba reviews development projects

AMMAN (Petra) — President of the Madaba district development area Rabea Majali met with heads of Madaba's administrative departments on Saturday to discuss means to expedite the process of executing development projects in the area. Mr. Majali stressed the need for further cooperation between concerned authorities in order to overcome obstacles facing the implementation of projects in Madaba.

### GNP registers JD 68m increase

(Continued from page 1) has to export more products and this calls for expanding existing projects.

He said the government had resorted to protectionist measures to help boost local industries and in the process granted them total or partial exemptions from customs duty on primary materials.

In 1986 the government granted such treatment of 386 industries, and is willing to offer such protection to any local industry if it is required to strengthen the national economy and serves the country's higher interests, the minister said.

In line with this policy, Dr. Musasher said, the government gives special attention to exports since it is exports that earn the country foreign currency and they also help adjust the balance of trade.

According to the minister, the Central Bank of Jordan has accepted the idea of financing exports to help exporters obtain loans at relatively low interest rates and the government is contemplating the establishment of a national institution for guaranteeing exports.

The minister referred to the country's balance of payment and said that Jordan had a surplus of foreign currency in 1986 which benefitted the balance of payment. This has come about due to the drop in imports in general which were in turn caused by the government's decision to impose protectionist measures on several industrial products, he said.

Last year saw stepped up government efforts to build strong trade relations with Arab countries and European Community nations and serious efforts for marketing Jordanian crops, he added.

### Under the Patronage of HRH Princess Basma

1987 Spring Festival  
Organized by  
The Jordanian Save the Children Fund  
at the Amman Plaza Hotel  
on Friday 3 April 1987 from  
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Attractive Varieties: Bazaar, Games, Egg Hunt, Bingo, Fancy Dress, Food/Varieties, Prizes, Lottery, Puppet Show, Music.  
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Jabel Amman: Divan Patisserie - Pizza Hut - Sweet Supermarket - The British Council.  
Jabel Luweibdeh: University Bookshop, Khalaf Stores.

Ticket Price: For Adults (One Dinar)  
For Children (Half Dinar)



**By Dr. Fahed Fanek**

virtues of hard work and frugality.

ON the anniversary of the Karameh Battle which took place in 1968, the Arabs in general and the Jordanian people in particular remember the heroic stand of the Arab forces that repelled the aggression on the East Bank. That battle represented the will of the Jordanian people and Jordan's armed forces to stand fast and confront the enemy and re-infused in the Arab people a new spirit and a determination for struggle and victory. The outcome of the battle proved that our people will not succumb to aggression and that the enemy cannot impose on us a de facto situation by means of force. The aggression on Karameh in the Jordan Valley was part of the 1967 aggression which saw the occupation of parts of three Arab countries, but the will to resist enemy plans and determination to defend Arab soil was greater than the Israelis could cope with, and so they lost the battle. Indeed the battle was a challenge to the will of the Arabs and the cause of justice and peace. Now, after nearly 20 years of occupation Jordan is still steadfast and still adhering to its principles and national stands. For Jordan, Palestine is the upper most priority, and for this reason the Jordanian armed forces will continue the struggle to foil all Israeli acts of aggression. Jordan will continue to work for peace and seek the restoration of the occupied Arab rights.

ordered its priests throughout the country not to hold services or attend national day ceremonies, adding a new, more serious

tion pleases the Communists and left-wing members of Pasok, the impact on devout churchgoers throughout the country could

church by not inviting church representatives to take part in a debate on the issue on state-run television.

conservatives in the campaign

He is expected to give a

virtues of hard work and frugality.



# Nile drought means seven lean years for Egypt

Egypt fears that Joseph's biblical vision is being repeated. Tony Walker reports on the effects of a seventh year of water shortage on irrigation and power generation.

CAIRO — Never in the last hundred years since detailed records were kept, and perhaps not since biblical times, have the waters of the Nile, Egypt's lifeblood, been so afflicted by prolonged drought.

Egyptian officials are nervously assessing the possible impact of a seventh lean year in the Nile's main catchment area of Ethiopia on water supplies available in 1988 for Egypt's irrigation and power generation.

These officials are reluctant to talk about a crisis for arid Egypt, but admit they are worried and wonder if Joseph's biblical vision of seven lean years threatening the inhabitants of the Nile valley delta is now somehow in danger of being repeated.

Water flowing into Lake Nasser has been well below expectations since 1981, including a disastrous 1985, reducing reserves in the man-made dam to the point where water rationing for Egypt in the next year or so is being contemplated.

At the same time, the drop in the level of Lake Nasser, the 5,000 square kilometre reservoir created by the completion of the Aswan High Dam in 1971, has forced a reduction in power

generated from water passing through the dam's sluice gates and turbines.

The great African drought of the 1980s has helped gradually to reduce reserves in Lake Nasser to the point now that the dam is at its lowest level since it filled in 1978.

This in turn is having an impact on the ecology of the lake itself. Breeding grounds of the popular tilapia fish in shallow coastal waters are being affected by the drop in the water level. Fish stocks are threatened.

Mr. Boutros Ghali, Egypt's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, perhaps the country's most eloquent official on the importance of the Nile, says simply: "The national security of Egypt is not Israel. The national security is water."

The reservoir now stands at 160.6 metres above sea level. A minimum of 165 metres above sea level is required to operate the power station, which last year produced about 20 per cent of Egypt's electricity, at full capacity.

Mr. Mustafa Al Genaidy, senior engineer at the power station authority, believes this will be a "critical year" for the Aswan

High Dam. "If we don't get a flood this year, maybe we'll have to decrease the flow through the dam next year," he says.

This would affect agriculture and industry downstream which, with household requirements, consumes about 55.5 billion cubic metres annually. These levels have been maintained through the six dry years since 1981 by utilising Lake Nasser's reserves, built up during seven good years between 1971-78.

Egypt and Sudan use about 84 billion cubic metres of Nile water a year which represents, according to Mr. Al Genaidy, a "medium flood." The flow into Lake Nasser last year was about 57 billion cubic metres up on the catastrophic 36 billion cubic metres in 1985, but still much less than requirements.

Ethiopia, which has been afflicted as badly as any African country by drought, is absolutely critical to Egypt. Eighty-five per cent of water flowing through Egypt have their origins in Ethiopia catchment areas of the Blue Nile which joins the White Nile at Khartoum.

While Ethiopia itself had good rains last year, these did not fall in the Blue Nile's catchment. Egypt some years ago initiated a canal scheme in Sudan to improve the flow of the White Nile,

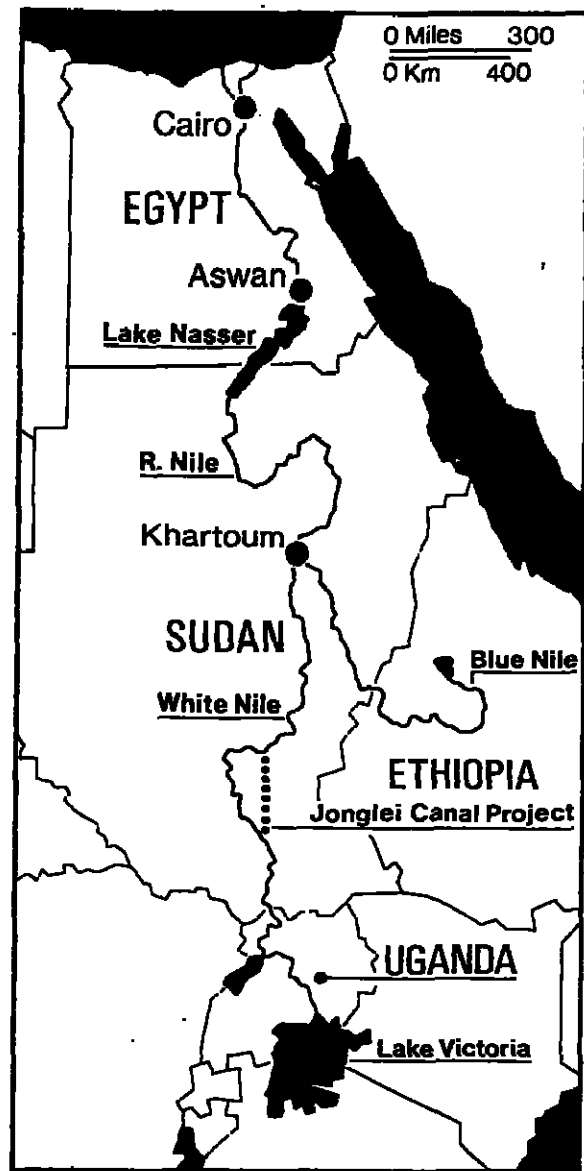
whose source is Lake Victoria, but the Jonglei canal project has been all but wrecked by the southern Sudanese rebellion.

A reduction in available water need not be a disaster for Egypt, according to western aid officials, who point to the tremendous waste of water by farmers and other users who assume that supplies are limitless.

An official of the United States Agency for International Development USAID, said that efficiency usage was about 55 per cent, which is low by any standards. He said Egypt could make much better use of its water by more scientific controls of the canal system.

The unspoken fear of officials — and it is unspoken because it hardly bears contemplating — is that the present dry spell is part of a changing weather pattern that will ultimately mean that Egypt's fast increasing population will have to make do with less water.

In a country where there is no rainfall to speak of and almost complete dependence on a single source of water, this is not a prospect that any Egyptian government can view with equanimity. Mr. Al Genaidy's assessment that 1987 is a critical year seems entirely justified — Financial Times feature.



## Spanish trial of the century to probe toxic oil deaths

By Leslie Crawford  
Reuter

MADRID — The trial begins this month of 41 business people accused of charges ranging from manslaughter to fraud after hundreds of Spaniards died six years ago from food poisoning blamed on toxic cooking oil.

The disease, named toxic oil syndrome, killed 386 people according to the government, or 650 according to prosecution lawyers, and maimed 25,000 others in the tragic spring of 1981.

The prosecution says it was caused by rape seed oil lethally adulterated for industrial use but fraudulently peddled as cooking oil in poor suburbs of Madrid and other cities.

Those who fell prey to the devastating disease suffered symptoms such as lung failure, weight loss, limb deformation, mental disorders, premature ageing and destruction of the body's immune system.

But so far scientists have been able to produce only circumstantial evidence to back the oil theory and doubts persist on the real origin of the disease.

In the dock are 40 men and one woman, oil importers, refiners and distributors who face charges of manslaughter, grievous bodily harm, fraud and crimes against public health.

Prosecutors are demanding sentences totalling more than 100,000 years each for the eight principal defendants, although the maximum term a person can serve in Spain is 30 years.

The trial, opening on March 30 and expected to last at least five months, has been dubbed Spain's trial of the century. The judicial investigation runs into 250,000 pages and 2,500 people, including Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and hundreds of medical experts, have been summoned to testify.

The survivors would have little hope of winning compensation from those standing trial. The embargoed goods of those on trial would not cover even one per cent of the total claims filed by the victims, lawyers say.

Instead, the sufferers are pinning their hopes on a separate judicial inquiry into the alleged responsibility of public health officials. The state would be able to pay compensation, but no charges have yet been filed.

"The judiciary has shown no interest in probing government negligence," prosecution lawyer Jose Mohedano told Reuters. "In another European country, the government of the day would have fallen. In Spain, not even the health minister resigned."

Some 4,000 victims are undergoing psychotherapy to overcome mental distress, while 700 others are still receiving medical treatment to alleviate the sequelae — crippling pains, paralysis and breathing problems.

Angela Menesher, a mother of two, has been in and out of hospital since she contracted the disease.

She shuffled about in her small flat in Leganes, a dormitory town outside Madrid where 2,000 families consumed the toxic oil, as she described the nightmare she has lived through.

"Doctors say I have cancer of the liver and can no longer find any veins to give me blood transfusions. They won't say how long I have to live..." her voice trails.

"My husband is now mentally handicapped. My daughter, once a plump 11-year-old, is now gaunt and weak," she told Reuters.

One defence lawyer, Juan Francisco Franco, told Reuters he believed it was impossible for the adulterated oil to have caused the disease.

"The traces of toxins found in the oil were too small to act as a poison, and to date, scientists have been unable to explain how the toxins caused the syndrome," Franco said.

Doctors at Spain's National Health Research Centre admitted they still did not know how the toxins in the oil acted on the body.

"But the correlation between the illness and the oil is so impressive, it is the only viable theory," Doctor Manuel Posada told Reuters.

Experiments to reproduce the disease in animals by feeding them toxic oil have only met with partial success.

Posada said the reason for this may be that the poisons attacked the body's immune system and there are no known experiments to reproduce this in animals.

Defence lawyers are expected to weigh heavily on the fact that there is only circumstantial evidence pointing to the oil.

## African music wins place in the spotlight on Dutch stage

By Raymond Gijzen  
Reuters

DELFT, Netherlands — When Gambian disc jockey Oko Drammeh arrived in The Netherlands he found a musical void he was determined to fill.

"When I came here in 1981, the only African artists performing in The Netherlands were bare-breasted female dance troupes," Drammeh told Reuters in an interview in his office, a record-packed room in the apartment he shares with his Dutch wife.

Five years on, Drammeh is confident he has helped to turn this country into the West's main stage for African music.

"Promoters like myself have brought more than 50 new names here... This country is now the biggest platform for African music in the world," Drammeh said.

From his flat in this historic town near Rotterdam, Drammeh, 32, a former disc-jockey and night-club manager from Banjul, runs a promotional agency which has built up an impressive file of African bands touring The Netherlands and Europe.

This month alone, groups playing here include Morocco's acoustic trio Aelizer, Ghana's long-and-dance troupe Wolomei and Ivory Coast reggae singer Alpha Bondy offering a vibrant variety of African pulse in venues all over the country.

Drammeh is organising a six-month concert series called "Afrodisia" in Amsterdam's rock, flower power and punk temple paradise, a converted church in the city centre.

The series, a continuation of his "African feeling" concerts of past years, is joined by an "Amsterdam roots" festival in the Dutch capital's Milkyway Dive.

Events this summer include evenings of folk music and an African music festival in a Delft soccer stadium.

Groups touring The Netherlands early this year come from Algeria, Mali, Zimbabwe and Ivory Coast.

Elsewhere in Europe festivals with a marked African presence this spring and summer are the Angoleme festival in France, Britain's world of music and dance or WOMAD festival, the Sinks festival near Antwerp and West Germany's Moers festival.

Zimbabwe's Bhundu Boys, based in London, are currently touring Europe for second time. A critic in London's Observer newspaper wrote of their music: "They've got more catchy pop tunes than you'll find in combined hit parades of the northern hemisphere."

Drammeh hopes to bring Dutch and African artists

together in September for a "Live AIDS" festival to raise funds for the fight in Africa against the disease.

But despite Paul Simon's hugely popular Graceland album, which last year threw the spotlight on South African bands, African music is not on the verge of being the next big western craze, says Dutch journalist and African music specialist Henk Tummers.

African music lacks the subculture appeal of Indian music or reggae as well as western rock's superstar cult, he told Reuters.

"African music has had a serious following in Europe for five or six years now... Some people moved from reggae to African music, others are neo-hippies bored with the sitar and some have been introduced to it on an African holiday," he said.

Another factor hampering mass appeal is the mixed bag of

tunes which goes by the name of African music, despite a common emphasis on rhythm and dance, as the various regions absorbed different types of western music and developed their own styles.

While American jazz and blues traditions made an impact in South Africa, Latin American styles like rumba and calypso have influenced West-African bands and reggae mixed with traditional folk music in North Africa to create rai music.

Many Westerners are baffled by the choice, Tummers said in a recent article in the leading Dutch music magazine *Oor*.

"African music includes dozens of totally different styles which have less in common than heavy metal and German hit parade songs," he wrote.

The variety has made marketing records more difficult as many retailers find it impossible to cat-

ter for the specialised tastes and limited demands for individual musicians, Drammeh said, adding only a few shops stock representative collections.

Similarly, he complains of a lack of media interest here which contrasts sharply with the active club circuit, as only one small and cash-starved station regularly broadcasts African music... in the dead of night.

Drammeh, whose agency is subsidised by the Dutch state, has also found Dutch companies unwilling to subsidise his efforts. But some smaller firms have started taking an interest after Paul Simon played with South African musicians in a packed Rotterdam indoor stadium last year.

Simon has been attacked by many critics of apartheid for his musical venture into South Africa but Drammeh is not one of them.

## Egyptian western desert is opening up, but still wild

By John Rogers  
Reuter

MUT, Egypt — A duck farm, charter planes of European tourists and rows of three-storey concrete apartment blocks are signs that the ancient oases of Egypt's Western Desert are adapting to the 20th century.

Kharga, Dakhla, Farafra and Bahariya oases, known collectively as the "New Valley," are prospering thanks to abundant underground water and government investment.

The region, once a grainbowl for the Roman Empire, is peppered with well-preserved Pharaonic, Roman and Christian temples or tombs.

For several years now, a 1,000-kilometre tarmac road has linked the four oases on a crescent from Cairo's Giza Pyramids through the desert to Assiut on the River Nile 380 kilometres south of the capital.

Four-wheel-drive enables you to leave the road. But a saloon car can do the trip, though you need to take reserve petrol and water and two spare tyres.

Experts, funded by the United Nations have contributed to a pilot farm growing vegetables and other food for some 900 workers and their families at the Gedida iron ore mine in Bahariya, the oasis nearest Cairo.

The mine company looks after more community needs than would a big city employer, training mechanics, bringing in flour mills and providing chicken-feed.

But not all the progress has been beneficial, says mine director Said Abdul Razak, who helped start the Bahariya project and has been there for 20 years.

Television, brought in only last year, has created new demands among local people.

"Before the asphalt road and electricity, it was different. They needed nothing, only food. Now people have started to need many things," says Abdul Razak.

Encroachment of modern life is also evident in Kharga, the biggest oasis at the other end of the crescent, and in Dakhla, of which small, sleepy Mut is the main community.

Kharga, on the old camel trail from Sudan, has an airport, a big hotel and a flourishing tourist industry, with West Germans the main visitors.

Local people are gradually forsaking their old mud-brick houses for ugly but functional apartment blocks and the narrow-alleyed "old towns" in the oases seem destined to become empty shells, of interest mainly to tourists.

"People are running for civilisation as they see it — building with concrete and leaving the mud-brick houses," says Dakhla's tourism manager, Mohammad Hassan Ibrahim.

Date palms abound. But unlike picture-book versions, the New Valley oases have cows in the fields and grow rice, olives, citrus fruit, wheat and other non-desert crops, including alfalfa for the donkeys.

Alongside palm trees, you can find apricots growing in irrigated, shaded gardens behind high mud walls. In the townships, turkeys and ducks are farmed.

The secret of the New Valley's greenery — in an ocean of sand covering 45 per cent of Egypt's total area — is a vast, ancient reservoir of subsoil water brought to the surface by hundreds of artesian wells.

It has seeped down from the mountains of Central Africa for 25,000 to 50,000 years. Depending on the rate of use, it could last from 50 to 800 years.

Among unusual attractions for visitors are mineral-rich hot springs, including one at Mut which pumps up water at 42 degrees centigrade from 1,220 metres.

The government has been investing since 1960 to reclaim tracts of New Valley desert in the oases and attract farmers from the heavily-populated Nile Valley and Delta.

But the dangers of desert encroachment are clear. The oases lie in big desert depressions and horizons are dominated by cliffs that mark, in effect, the limits of civilisation.

Some stretches of the road are blocked by voluptuous, giant, crescent-shaped sand-dunes migrating across the desert at an estimated 10 metres a year.

Authorities just lay another stretch of road round the obstacle until it has moved on.

Telegraph poles all but submerged under dunes are not uncommon. And, north of Kharga, clumps of dead palm trees tell the desert tale — what a sand-dune crosses, it stifles and kills.

## Police haul in villains, but 3 tons of gold has vanished

By Ben Dobbin  
The Associated Press

LONDON — A 3-year-old Scotland Yard investigation of Britain's biggest robbery has led to arrests, convictions and the breakup of a large drug ring — but only a fraction of the almost \$39 million in stolen gold.

At dawn on Nov. 26, 1983, six hooded gunmen burst into a security depot at Heathrow Airport, doused the guards with kerosene and threatened to torch them unless the vaults were opened.

They escaped in vans laden with over 3 tons of pure gold.

While some \$19 million, about half the proceeds from the heist, has been traced, authorities have so far managed to recover only 11 of the 6,800 gold bars that were stolen.

Two of the holdup gang are serving 25-year sentences, and

police say they know the identities of nearly all the others. Lawyers, real estate speculators and jewelers accused of dishonestly handling the "laundered" assets are being arrested in twos and threes.

"I think we've made significant progress. I think we'll make more," said Brian Worth, Scotland Yard's deputy assistant commissioner in charge of specialist operations.

While the hunt has largely entailed what Worth calls the laborious process of tracking money-laundering trails between Hong Kong and the Caribbean, it hasn't lacked drama.

Fourteen months after the robbery, an undercover team moved at night into the grounds of a country mansion owned by Kenneth Noye, a wealthy businessman who police suspected of masterminding the disposal of half the bullion.

Noye, alerted by his guard dogs, surprised one of the detectives, John Fordham, and stabbed him to death. Eleven of the gold bars — the only original ingots found so far — later were dug up in his 18-acre garden.

Noye was acquitted on a plea of self-defence of killing the detective. But, in a separate trial, he received 14 years in jail and a \$750,000 fine for moving stolen gold back into legitimate markets and defrauding the government of sales tax on the bullion. Three associates were jailed on similar charges.

Shaken by the detective's death, Scotland Yard in March 1986 formed a long-planned 45-member task force to delve into money-laundering and organised crime. The gold robbery became one of its assignments.

After seven months, during which its members visited banking centres around the world, the

task force uncovered a \$30-million drug smuggling ring based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. U.S. authorities have since indicted 13 people and thanked Scotland Yard for helping crack the case.

Some proceeds of the gold robbery were tied up in shell companies used to launder profits from the drug ring. Worth said in an interview.

"Once you get into money trails, money laundering, especially offshore, you get the situation where money merges," he said. "There's an awful lot of money circulating which is terrorist (money), drugs, from organised crime generally. It's very difficult to attribute these large sums of money to their criminal source."

He said much of the estimated \$19 million in proceeds linked to the robbery was invested in London property.

Other alleged proceeds, seized

or frozen while court cases proceed, were traced to bank accounts in the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands — Britain's offshore financial havens — and in small Caribbean islands, particularly the British Virgin Islands.

Aside from Noye and his three associates, nine other people face trial for allegedly handling the gold money. They include jeweller John Palmer, who was expelled from Spain July 1 as the ink dried on an Anglo-Spanish extradition treaty preventing criminal suspects from evading justice.

Ex-convict John Fleming, who fled from Spain, is held in a Miami immigration camp fighting deportation to Britain after being refused entry to Peru and Costa Rica. Scotland Yard wants to question him about the robbery, but hasn't elaborated on his alleged connection.

The two men serving 25 years

in prison for participating in the robbery were convicted in part on the evidence of Anthony Black, one of the six Brinks-Mat Ltd. security guards handcuffed and blindfolded by the raiders.

Black supplied the holdup gang with a key and interior photographs of the warehouse, and gave the signal for them to attack, testimony at his trial showed. Nine days after the robbery, he broke down under interrogation, agreed to turn state's evidence and was sentenced to 6 years in prison.

Police believe the gang expected to grab about \$3 million but stumbled on a bonanza that had just been delivered. They also netted \$150,000 of diamonds and U.S. travellers' checks.

"We are pretty certain we know, bar one perhaps, who was involved (in the hold-up)," Worth said.

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## Everton keeps hopes alive

LONDON (R) — Everton, battling to avoid a repeat of its unhappy finish to last season, kept alive its English championship chances by beating struggling Charlton 2-1 in an incident-packed match.

Both teams had a player sent off Saturday after Scott Jim Melrose had threatened to damage Everton's championship prospects with a second half equaliser that cancelled out midfielder Trevor Steven's 44th minute penalty.

Everton's recent midfield signing, Ian Snodin, and Charlton's Andy Peake were dismissed after exchanging blows in a 76th minute incident.

Seven minutes later, England defender Gary Stevens hit the winner that left second-placed Everton six points behind leader and champion Liverpool, who has played one game more and faces Tottenham away today.

Arsenal, third overnight, failed to halt its decline in form and slumped to a 2-0 defeat at Watford, who ousted the London club from the Football Association (F.A.) Cup in last weekend's quarter-finals.

Everton, who lost the F.A. Cup final to Liverpool and was also First Division runner-up to its city rival in the 1985-86 season, not only sustained its title hopes but gained a measure of revenge for previous defeats at the hands

of relegation-threatened Charlton.

Charlton, 20th in the 22-team division, beat Everton in its first league meeting last October and again in a minor cup competition recently, but plunged into trouble immediately before halftime. Defender Paul Miller brought down striker Adrian Heath and penalty expert Steven made no mistake.

Melrose's equaliser in the 66th minute was the prelude to the Snodin-Peake clash in the centre circle, but Everton at least regained its poise sufficiently to seize the winning goal after 83 minutes.

Everton's Welsh international Kevin Ratcliffe played a long ball forward which Steven headed back into the path of Wayne Clarke. The striker could not make contact but the ball ran to Stevens, who slid it crisply home.

Arsenal, who left it key trio Viv Anderson, David Rocastle and Steve Williams, saw its title hopes effectively vanish with the defeat at Watford which left it 12 points behind Liverpool and one match in hand.

Watford was given a ninth-minute boost when Tony Cotton saved a spot kick by Martin Hayes, his first miss in 10 attempts. This season. Shortly afterwards, Gary Porter fired Watford ahead and Luther Blissett sealed success with a 78th minute goal.

Anderson, Rocastle and Williams were all one booking away from suspensions which would have kept them out of the League Cup final against Liverpool at Wembley on April 5 — Arsenal's remaining realistic prospect of a trophy.

On a day when the eight First Division matches produced a mere 14 goals, Southampton captured the scoring honours with a 5-0 trouncing of Aston Villa.

Gordon Hobson put Southampton ahead after 35 seconds and Glen Cockerill extended the lead in the third minute. Colin Clarke scored twice before halftime, while Danny Wallace completed the rout with an 83rd minute goal.

Striker John Fashanu, who played a major role in Wimbledon's recent progress to the F.A. Cup quarter-finals, was sent off in his club's 1-1 draw with Queen's Park Rangers.

## Bayern Munich crushes Nuremberg to keep lead

BONN (R) — Bayern Munich, Real Madrid's European Cup semifinal opponents, beat Nuremberg 4-0 in an all-Bavarian soccer derby Saturday to stay one point clear at the top of the West German First Division with 30 points.

Goals from Michael Rummenigge, Roland Wohlfarth, Dieter Hoeneß and Lothar Matthäus put an emphatic stop to high-flying Nuremberg's run of five victories before a 75,000 crowd. Hamburg, who beat Eintracht Frankfurt 3-1 Friday, stayed second. Goals from Peter Lux, Miroslav Okonski and Lothar Dittmer carried Hamburg to victory and plunged Eintracht, who

had scored first through Klaus Theiss, into the relegation zone. Bayer Leverkusen suffered an unexpected 1-0 home defeat by Cologne, who scored through Uwe Bein, but retained third place on 26 points.

Stuttgart stayed fourth with 25 points despite having its away match with newcomers FC Homburg postponed because of an unplayable pitch. Closest pursers Kaiserslautern failed to grasp the opportunity, crashing 3-1 in Bochum.

The feat of the day was Borussia Mönchengladbach's 7-1 away victory over Werder Bremen, the north German side's first defeat at home in 44 games.

## Amritraj to meet Gandhi over India-Israel match

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian tennis star Vijay Amritraj will appeal to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi to allow India to play Israel in the Davis Cup quarter-finals, a newspaper said.

The respected Hindu newspaper quoted Amritraj as saying he hoped to meet Gandhi next month to seek permission for the Indian team to play the tie in New Delhi in July.

The 33-year-old Indian captain said in Madras that a default in the tournament because of the government's policy against contacts with Israel would mean the end of his Davis Cup career of nearly 20 years, the newspaper reported.

"It will also be a big blow for the game in India... (and) this could be our last big chance to go some distance in Davis Cup," he said, adding that India would be favourites if the tie were played in New Delhi.

Amritraj, who won both his singles matches in the first round tie against Argentina here last week, warned that the International Tennis Federation would punish India severely for a default.

He was in the Indian team that forfeited its tie against South Africa in the 1975 Davis Cup finals because of New Delhi's stand against Pretoria's apartheid policies.

## Nevada legislature doubts Leonard's ability to fight

CARSON CITY, Nevada (AP) — Questions concerning Sugar Ray Leonard's fitness to fight world middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler April 6 came up in the Nevada legislature Friday.

Straying from testimony on the Athletic Commission's budget, Assembly Ways and Means Committee members asked Commissioners Duane Ford and Sammy Macias if they were certain that Leonard, who suffered a detached retina in a previous fight, was medically fit.

Ford assured the committee that the Athletic Commission

shared its concerns. Leonard was in Nevada for an examination by four retina specialists, who found that the fight posed no "greater risk" to him, according to Ford.

Thursday, the Assembly Health and Welfare Committee introduced a bill that would give the commission's medical board more autonomy in deciding a fighter's fitness.

Health and Welfare Chairman-Morse Arberry said a group of Reno physicians requested the measure in part because they were worried that Leonard's eye can't take the punishment. Arberry told the commissioners, who were unaware of the bill, about the doctors' concern.

Ford pointed out that Leonard was a professional athlete who was used to taking risks and that hockey and football players stand a greater chance of getting detached retinas than boxers.

"The Athletic Commission did everything to make sure that Ray Leonard was fit to fight. There's a lot of people that sensationalise this," he said, adding that Leonard must undergo another examination two weeks before the fight.

Ways and Means Chairman Marvin Sedway said, "I think Mr. Leonard's crazy. He can detach a retina again by sneezing."

Sedway, an optometrist, said there was no way a doctor could guarantee that someone who has had a detached retina won't detach it again during a fight. "I think it's really fraught with danger," he added.

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## New York's Ewing will miss rest of NBA season

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Knicks centre Patrick Ewing will miss the rest of the NBA season because of a sprained ligament in his left knee, the team announced.

Ewing injured the knee Thursday night when he slipped on a wet spot in the first quarter of the Knicks' 111-105 overtime victory over the Indiana Pacers.

No surgery will be needed, but Ewing will have to wear a knee brace for three to four weeks, team spokesman John Cirillo said. The Knicks, who have virtually no chance to make the playoffs, end their regular season April 18 at Cleveland.

"If it was a matter of him (Ewing) playing in the playoffs, he might be ready," Cirillo said. "But we're not talking about a playoff situation here."

Ewing has missed three games this season with an inflamed left knee. Last March, he had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee to remove a piece of soft tissue. But despite playing only 50 games, he was the NBA's Rookie of the Year.

This season, Ewing averaged 21.5 points and 8.8 rebounds in 63 games. With 16 games left, the Knicks have a 21-45 record and are in next-to-last place in the Atlantic Division.

## Japan downs Belgium in ice hockey

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Japan, led by Norio Suzuki's six goals, trounced Belgium 24-0 (9-0, 6-0, 9-0) for the most impressive victory in the opening round of the Division C World Ice Hockey Championships.

Romania, Yugoslavia and host Denmark also won their first round games.

Katsutoshi Kawamura and Toshiyuki Sakai had three goals apiece for Japan. Takayuki Ueno, Kenichi Suzuki, Shuji Momoi and Mikiya Kurata each netted twice and Kenji Tanaka, Toshihiro Kikuchi, Koji Wakasa and Kunio Takagi added one each. Japan drew four minor penalties, Belgium three minors.

Romania beat Bulgaria 7-3 (0-1, 6-1, 1-1). Elod Antal, Marius Gliga, Arpad Sofron, Laszlo Csata, Ion Zaharia, Gheorghe Dragomir and Istvan Gereb scored Romania's goals, while Stamen Ganchev, Janko Iankov and Ruslan Christov replied for Bulgaria. Romania got 4 x 2 minutes penalty and Bulgaria 7 x 2 minutes.

Yugoslavia defeated Hungary 6-2 (2-1, 2-0, 2-1). Igor Berbak scored three goals for Yugoslavia, and Zvonimir Sivak, Dragutin Minarec and Andrej Vidmar one goal each. Hungary's goals were scored by Gyorgy Pek and Zoltan Leleszi.

Ways and Means Chairman Marvin Sedway said, "I think Mr. Leonard's crazy. He can detach a retina again by sneezing."

Sedway, an optometrist, said there was no way a doctor could guarantee that someone who has had a detached retina won't detach it again during a fight. "I think it's really fraught with danger," he added.

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**EMBASSY OF PAKISTAN NOTICE**

On the occasion of the PAKISTAN DAY, a flag-hoisting ceremony will be held at the chancery, Embassy of Pakistan at 10.30 a.m. on March 23, 1987.

All Pakistani nationals along with families are most cordially invited to attend.

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## Barcelona cancels registration of \$3 million striker Hughes

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Struggling Barcelona, looking for a scapegoat for its recent slump, has cancelled the registration of \$3 million striker Mark Hughes as one of its two foreign players.

The club said it sent a telex to the Spanish federation saying Hughes's place would be taken by Scotland's Steve Archibald, who has been playing in the reserves since the Welshman arrived from Manchester United last summer.

Archibald could play in the crucial league match at Real Sociedad today.

The change appears to have been forced on Barcelona's English coach Terry Venables who vowed only this month that he would never swap the two players. The question mark hanging over his future at the club now looks even larger.

In the last few weeks, Barcelo-

na had been knocked off the top of the First Division by Real Madrid and last Wednesday was bundled out of the UEFA Cup by Dundee United.

Pressure from fans and directors had increased as Hughes, granted an eight-year contract with the club, failed to produce more than a handful of goals.

His partner Gary Lineker of England, who also joined last summer, has been a big success and has insisted that he enjoys playing with Hughes. But his best performances of the season — a hat-trick against Real Madrid and four goals for England against Spain — came when the Welshman was not present.

Manchester United's new manager Alex Ferguson has said he would be interested in re-signing Hughes if he became available.

## U.S. college basketball tourney enters final 8

NEW YORK (AP) — The nation's top-ranked team, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, joined Iowa, Indiana and upset winner Louisiana State in the final eight of the NCAA basketball tournament.

Nevada-Las Vegas, behind Armon Gilliam's career-high 38 points, defeated upstart Wyoming 92-78 in the West regional and will face Iowa in on Sunday for a trip to the final four in New Orleans.

Iowa nipped Oklahoma 93-91 in overtime when Kevin Gamble sank a 22-foot 3-point shot with three seconds left.

LSU will meet Indiana on Sunday in the Midwest regional final at Cincinnati.

Nikita Wilson scored 24 points to lead Louisiana State, the no. 10 seed, to a 63-58 victory over DePaul. In the second game at Cincinnati, Keith Smart and Rick Calloway each scored 21 points as no. 3 Indiana ousted no. 17 Duke 88-82.

Big East rivals Providence and Georgetown battle for the South-east, and North Carolina and Syracuse vie for the East crown.

Nevada-Las Vegas 92, Wyoming 78

Nevada-Las Vegas, which trailed 39-38 at halftime, used Gilliam's inside shooting and a stifling pressure defence to pull out the win Friday night over the unheralded Cowboys.

Gilliam scored five of his points in a 16-5 run midway through the second half that gave UNLV,

36-1, some breathing room in what had been a close game.

The victory was the 21st in a row for UNLV, and the 20th time in a row that the Runnin' Rebels had won by more than 10 points. Wyoming, 24-10, was led by Fennis Dembo, who had 27 points. LSU 63, DePaul 58

Anthony Wilson's 15-foot jump shot with 25 seconds left provided the winning margin as LSU defeated DePaul.

LSU, 24-14, took the last of 13 lead changes in the game for a 58-57 advantage on Nikita Wilson's inside shot with 2:48 remaining. Then Oliver Brown stole a pass from DePaul's Andy Laux and Anthony Wilson hit the key jump shot from the left side for a 60-57 lead.

Indiana 88, Duke 82

Indiana, 27-4 and the Midwest regional's top seed, used a 21-4 run in the first half to overcome Duke, which had held a 29-21 lead. The Blue Devils, 24-9, went 7-30 without a field goal as Indiana made its run with Calloway scoring eight of the points.

Iowa 93, Oklahoma 91 (OT)

Gamble, a 6-foot-6 senior, led Iowa, 30-4, with 26. Pocand blocked a late Oklahoma shot to force the overtime.

Oklahoma 24-10, led by as many as 16 points in the first half but led only by one at halftime. The game was close throughout the second half, with Iowa's biggest lead only six points at 78-72 with 6:54 to play in regulation.

## Lack of Olympic tickets overseas angers many

CALGARY, Alberta (R) — The trouble-plagued organising committee for the 1988 Winter Olympics in Calgary admitted that not a single ticket for the most popular events had been made available outside North America and said it was taking steps to correct the situation.

The committee announced it would create an extra 190,000 tickets by increasing the size of the venues.

"This is not a local event, it is an international event and we must act accordingly," said Committee Chairman Frank King. King said a special committee would determine what portion of the additional tickets should be allocated to the more than two dozen agents designated for international distribution.

Local residents have entered their names on waiting lists in more than sufficient numbers to buy all the new tickets.

King said the allocation decision would be taken within three weeks, but Marketing Vice-President Bill Wardle urged the committee to hurry because angry letters from agents and national Olympic committees were already pouring in.

The 43 most popular events sold out on Sept. 30, the first day that mail orders were accepted from North America.

About 950,000 of the 1.9 million tickets remain available, but most are for less popular events, such as the luge, bobsled, biathlon and preliminary-round ice hockey games. King said that to attract overseas visitors to Calgary the agents must have tickets available to the figure-skating and speed-skating, the opening and closing ceremonies, the medal-round ice hockey games and the men's Alpine skiing events, all of which were totally sold out.

## France wins 4th Grand Slam in rugby union

DUBLIN (R) — France recovered magnificently from a 10-0 deficit to beat Ireland 19-13 Saturday and clinch its fourth Grand Slam and the 1987 Five Nations Rugby Union Championship.

French flanker Eric Champ scored two second-half tries to confirm his emergence as the premier loose forward in Europe this season and right wing Philippe Berot kicked three penalties and a conversion.

Ireland, although increasingly outclassed as the match progressed, gave a typically spirited exhibition and set the French right back on their heels with two tries in the opening 13 minutes.

Right-wing Trevor Ringland opened the scoring after only six minutes when he forced his way across the line following clever play by centre Brendan Mullin who had drawn in the French defence. Michael Kiernan kicked

a magnificent conversion from the touchline then seven minutes later scrum-half Michael Bradley wriggled through the defence to give the home team a totally unexpected 10-point lead.

France, though, kept its composure admirably and after pegging the deficit back to 10-3 at the interval launched wave after wave of exhilarating attacks and counter-attacks.

Its relentless pressure was rewarded when the predatory Champ twice seized the loose ball to score and even the loss through injury of full-back Serge Blanco did not dim the French brilliance as it ran through the full range of its attacking plays.

Kiernan kept Ireland in contention with a 70th minute penalty and though the Irish made a late rally they never looked like denying France the championship it had so thoroughly deserved.

## McEnroe defeats Mecir to advance in Rotterdam

ROTTERDAM (R) — John McEnroe reached the final of the Rotterdam Grand Prix Tennis Tournament Saturday beating Czechoslovakia's Miloslav Mecir 6-1, 7-5 and displaying signs of the sheer genius and quick temper that mark his game.

Mecir was clearly out of touch in the first set while McEnroe, disregarding the hip tendinitis trouble for which he has been receiving heat treatment, displayed some of his old dazzling form.

McEnroe, seeded fourth, also bitterly disputed a line call with the umpire and berated photographers for disturbing him. But it was a far cry from the "Super-brat" scenes that marred his play before his self-imposed break from tennis last year.

Mecir, who has stumbled since beating world number one Ivan Lendl to win the International Players Championship two weeks ago, recovered in the second set.

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American Centre, Third Circle, Jabel Amman.  
1:00 - 4:30 p.m. Consular Section, U.S. Embassy  
March 24: 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon. Consular Section, U.S. Embassy  
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Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 677420  
**TOP GUN**  
Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

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**JAGGED EDGE**  
Performances 12:15, 3:00, 5:00, 9:45



## Japanese banks set up firm to take over outstanding loans

TOKYO (AP) — A group of 28 Japanese commercial banks has set up a company to assume part of their outstanding loans to debtor nations, Fuji Bank Ltd. announced last week.

A bank official, Mr. Kiyoshi Nemoto, said the banks had created JBA Investment Inc., a paper company, to clear external debts and uncollected interest from the books of the Japanese banks, whose outstanding loans to debtor nations were estimated at more than \$35 billion as of September 1986.

Mr. Nemoto noted that Japan banks' uncollected interest is mounting. Brazil announced Feb. 20 that it is indefinitely suspending interest payments to private banks that hold most of its \$103 billion foreign debt.

He said a bank, for instance, could sell its outstanding external loans to JBA Investment at a 40 per cent discount to clear the debts from its books. This means that the bank gets back 60 per cent of the outstanding debts in cash, he said.

JBA will buy the outstanding loans with investment money from the bank, and pay that money back to the bank as interest when it receives money back from the debtor nations, he said.

He said JBA investment is to collect debts from debtor nations based on the loans it has purchased from the banks.

Mr. Nemoto said JBA Investment, which was set up in the British Cayman Islands for tax reasons, is capitalised at \$84,000 and is owned equally by the 28 banks.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### UAE spending to remain unchanged

ABU DHABI (OPECNA) — Government spending in the United Arab Emirates will remain unchanged from the previous year despite the increase in oil prices, according to UAE Central Bank Governor Abdul Malek Al Hamar. Although oil prices have recorded a big increase compared with the earlier part of 1986, "it does not mean that the government should spend more," he said. Responding to a question on the performance of the UAE banking industry in 1986, he said the banks were improving and some of them had made good profits during the year. Lending to public and private sectors, he pointed out, had also increased.

### Top Swiss watchmaker boosts profits

BIENNE, Switzerland (R) — Switzerland's leading watch-making firm, which produces the world-famous Omega, Tissot and Swatch brands, said last week that its profits rose around 15 per cent last year. SMH Societe Suisse De Microelectronique et d'Horlogerie said growth came despite a weaker dollar, which allowed only a small increase in sales. Final figures are not due before June at the latest, but SMH said sales rose 1.2 per cent from the 1985 total of 1.79 billion francs (\$1.16 billion). Had it not been for the dollar's fall, sales would have risen six per cent, the company said. The Swiss watch industry has recovered dramatically since a flood of inexpensive Quartz watches from Japan and Hong Kong brought it to the verge of bankruptcy in the late 1970s and early 1980s. SMH has already said it plans to pay a five per cent dividend this year, the first since the group was created after a bank rescue in 1983.

### British share ownership trebles since '79

LONDON (R) — Share ownership in Britain has trebled since Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher came to power in 1979, the government said last week. Treasury Financial Secretary Norman Lamont told parliament that the rise was spread across social groups. A government survey showed that more than five million people had become shareholders for the first time since 1979. Nearly 20 per cent of adults, or 8.5 million, now owned shares. Mrs. Thatcher has pursued a policy of denationalising state-owned industries with the aim of creating a nation where all citizens have a vested interest in capitalism. The opposition Labour Party argues that her privatisation programme has often undersold the value of the industries and mainly benefited wealthy individuals and institutions.

### Romania, Nepal sign trade memorandum

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal and Romania last week signed a letter of understanding to promote bilateral trade. Under the arrangement, Romania will import jute goods, handicrafts, medicine herbs, tea and ready-made garments from Nepal. Nepal will import construction materials, electric goods, cement, buses, trucks, tractors, machinery, industrial goods and cotton. In recent years, the two countries have had trade volume of about \$3 million a year.

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN (J.T.) — The following table summarizes trading activities at the Amman Financial Market during the week starting Saturday, March 14, '87 and ending Wednesday, March 18, '87. (Figures in Jordanian dinars).

| Name of company                                 | Number of shares | Volume of trade | Opening price | Closing price | Par value |
|---|------------------|-----------------|---------------|---------------|-----------|
| <b>Banking and financial institutions</b>       |                  |                 |               |               |           |
| Industrial Development Bank                     | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Petra Bank                                      | 950              | 2215            | 2.260         | 2.350         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Islamic Bank                             | 2105             | 4408            | 2.100         | 2.090         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Kuwait Bank                              | 16161            | 26639           | 1.620         | 1.630         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Gulf Bank                                | 5112             | 6839            | 1.320         | 1.340         | 1.000     |
| Housing Bank                                    | 1380             | 2211            | 1.580         | 1.620         | 1.000     |
| Arab Jordan Investment Bank                     | 4394             | 9227            | 2.000         | 2.100         | 1.000     |
| Cairo Amman Bank                                | 236              | 6905            | 29.250        | 29.250        | 5.000     |
| Bank of Jordan                                  | 274459           | 5478674         | 19.000        | 18.900        | 5.000     |
| Arab Bank                                       | 1940             | 251674          | 129.000       | 129.000       | 10.000    |
| Jordan National Bank                            | 21580            | 53920           | 2.460         | 2.500         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Finance House for Development            | 69250            | 53273           | 0.760         | 0.770         | 1.000     |
| Islamic Investment House                        | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Investment and Finance Corporation       | 128468           | 155604          | 1.560         | 1.750         | 1.000     |
| General Credit Corporation                      | 31433            | 22251           | 0.770         | 0.730         | 1.000     |
| National Financial Investments                  | 24830            | 34674           | 1.390         | 1.440         | 1.000     |
| National Portfolio Securities                   | 1000             | 595             | 0.590         | 0.590         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Securities Corporation                   | 6762             | 6199            | 0.900         | 0.920         | 1.000     |
| Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)               | 22868            | 32937           | 1.460         | 1.440         | 1.000     |
| Real Estate Financing Corporation               | —                | —               | —             | —             | 2.000     |
| Al Mashrek Exchange                             | —                | —               | —             | —             | 10.000    |
| <b>Insurance and reinsurance</b>                |                  |                 |               |               |           |
| Jordan French Insurance                         | 71533            | 326601          | 4.000         | 4.750         | 1.000     |
| REPCO Life Insurance                            | 279              | 235             | 0.850         | 0.850         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Insurance                                | 950              | 10925           | 11.500        | 11.500        | 1.000     |
| Arab Life and Accident Insurance                | 6824             | 5719            | 0.880         | 0.820         | 1.000     |
| Yarmouk Insurance and Reinsurance               | 10688            | 11322           | 1.100         | 1.050         | 1.000     |
| Holy Land Insurance                             | 900              | 945             | 1.010         | 1.050         | 1.000     |
| Arabian Sea Insurance                           | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Philadelphia Insurance                          | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Arab Union International Insurance              | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jerusalem Insurance                             | 86               | 116             | 1.350         | 1.350         | 1.000     |
| Petra Jordan Insurance                          | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Gulf Insurance                           | 13000            | 10330           | 0.780         | 0.800         | 1.000     |
| Universal Insurance                             | 5600             | 4256            | 0.770         | 0.760         | 1.000     |
| General Insurance                               | —                | —               | —             | —             | 10.000    |
| Jordan Eagle Insurance                          | —                | —               | —             | —             | 10.000    |
| Middle East Insurance                           | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Al-Jazira Insurance                             | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| National Ahliya Insurance                       | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| <b>Services and industries</b>                  |                  |                 |               |               |           |
| Danco for Housing and Investment                | 8420             | 4863            | 0.580         | 0.570         | 1.000     |
| Real Estate Investment (Aqarco)                 | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Management and Consultancy                      | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| General Investment                              | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Leasing Corporation                      | 7241             | 5058            | 0.680         | 0.700         | 1.000     |
| Petra Enterprises and Leasing Equipments        | 15668            | 2623            | 0.660         | 0.670         | 1.000     |
| Equipment Leasing & Maintenance/Tajero          | 22800            | 10438           | 0.960         | 0.950         | 1.000     |
| Jordanian Electric Power                        | 8495             | 12707           | 1.490         | 1.500         | 1.000     |
| Irbid District Electricity                      | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Arab International Hotels                       | 75298            | 35962           | 0.440         | 0.480         | 1.000     |
| Hotels and Tourism                              | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Garage Owners Federation Office                 | 466              | 1911            | 4.250         | 4.100         | 1.000     |
| Jordan National Shipping Lines                  | 15400            | 13532           | 0.890         | 0.870         | 1.000     |
| Dar Al Shaab Press, Printing and Publishing     | 114703           | 58289           | 0.420         | 0.550         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Dairy                                    | 18260            | 21517           | 1.170         | 1.180         | 1.000     |
| Arab Pharmaceutical Manufacturing               | 13049            | 27792           | 2.120         | 2.130         | 1.000     |
| Intermediate Petrochemical Industries           | 87255            | 74333           | 0.860         | 0.850         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Phosphate Mines                          | 5689             | 13363           | 2.380         | 2.350         | 1.000     |
| Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Intaj) | 5316             | 7812            | 1.470         | 1.450         | 1.000     |
| Arab Chemical Detergent Industries              | 2397             | 11261           | 4.750         | 4.700         | 1.000     |
| Aladdin Industries                              | 40225            | 38983           | 0.980         | 0.960         | 1.000     |
| Arab Aluminium Manufacturing                    | 298990           | 452356          | 1.490         | 1.540         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Worsted Mills                            | 543              | 2172            | 4.300         | 4.000         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Ceramics                                 | 10900            | 10936           | 1.000         | 1.020         | 1.000     |
| Chemical Industries                             | 10870            | 12343           | 1.090         | 1.160         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Industries and Match (JIMCO)             | 2400             | 1208            | 0.480         | 0.510         | 1.000     |
| Dar Al Dawa' for Development and Investment     | 3895             | 5263            | 1.370         | 1.360         | 1.000     |
| National Steel Industries                       | 188225           | 407600          | 2.100         | 2.180         | 1.000     |
| Universal Chemical Industries                   | 13402            | 11857           | 0.870         | 0.900         | 1.000     |
| General Mining                                  | 2459             | 4361            | 1.750         | 1.750         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Petroleum Refinery                       | 6221             | 43527           | 6.970         | 7.000         | 5.000     |
| Jordan Lime & Brick                             | 297239           | 100417          | 0.268         | 0.388         | 1.000     |
| National Industries                             | 17530            | 11788           | 0.670         | 0.690         | 1.000     |
| Arab Paper Converting and Trading               | 4000             | 1400            | 0.380         | 0.350         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Wooden Industries (JWICO)                | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Livestock and Poultry                           | 2637             | 1982            | 0.760         | 0.750         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Pipes Manufacturing                      | 17731            | 21537           | 1.220         | 1.210         | 1.000     |
| Rafia Industrial for Plastic Bags               | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Paper and Cardboard                      | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Rockwool Industries                      | 1000             | 410             | 0.410         | 0.410         | 1.000     |
| Trans-Jordan Minerals Research                  | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Himeh Mineral                            | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Orient Dry Batteries Factory                    | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Wooden Industries                               | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Tanning                                  | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Printing and Packaging                   | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Tobacco and Cigarette                    | —                | —               | —             | —             | 5.000     |
| Jordan Brewery                                  | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Mas Industries                                  | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Arab Center for Pharmaceuticals & Chemicals     | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| National Cable & Wire Manufacturing             | 24158            | 22255           | 0.920         | 0.930         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Spinning & Weaving                       | 16955            | 10173           | 0.610         | 0.600         | 1.000     |
| Jordan Industrial Investment Corporation        | —                | —               | —             | —             | 1.000     |
| Jordan Sulpho Chemicals                         | 305950           | 748140          | 2.490         | 2.830         | 1.000     |
| Cement Factories                                | 84547            | 89688           | 1.040         | 1.070         | 1.000     |
| Grand total                                     | 1,972,979        | 4,023,359       | —             | —             | —         |

## Sterling takes centre stage

LONDON (AP) — The British pound took centre stage in the foreign exchange markets last week, hitting a four year-high against the dollar despite a move by Britain's major banks to cut their base lending rates.

But analysts are divided about sterling's outlook. Some say sterling will continue to rise slowly and steadily and others say it will retreat.

The pound's disorderly move was something of a surprise because lower British interest rates generally make pound-denominated investments less attractive and reduce demand for sterling.

But traders say the British interest rates are still much higher and therefore more attractive to investors than rates in the United States and Japan.

The pound also may have stayed strong in face of the half a percentage point cut in the major banks' base lending rate to 10 per cent, because many traders had expected a full-point cut.

There is rampant speculation that there will be another cut soon.

But analysts say it would take a cut of more than another full percentage point to undermine the pound.

"There's obviously room for interest rate cuts," said Mr. Paul Chertkow, director of currency economics at the brokerage firm Hoare Govett Ltd.

Some traders said the rate cuts actually have helped the pound because they are seen as stimulating the British economy.

The government paved the way for the interest rate cuts on Tuesday when it unveiled its fiscal 1988 budget, announcing that it was cutting substantially its borrowing.

Several major factors appear to limit the upside for the pound.

## New price pact to govern rubber trade

GENEVA (R) — Major producers and consumers of natural rubber Friday adopted a new five-year agreement aimed at stabilising world prices.

The new accord, which uses a "buffer stock to keep prices stable by selling or buying rubber as rates rise or fall, will succeed a pact which expires on Oct. 22. It will be open for signature from May 1 this year.

Conference Chairman Manasap Xuto of Thailand said the formal adoption represented a "historic moment."

To become operational, the new accord will require ratification by countries accounting for 75 per cent of world exports and 75 per cent of world imports.

Delegates said that it is expected such ratification will take between 12 to 14 months from now. During the hiatus between the two agreements, the International Natural Rubber Council will remain in place.

Mr. Xuto told delegates that his successor were aimed at meeting the needs of producers and consumers of natural rubber over the long term.

Mr. Ahmad Farouk of Malaysia, speaking on behalf of producers, said producing nations considered that the 1979 pact had

have stabilised at \$18 a barrel. Britain is the world's fifth largest oil producer.

The dollar's weakness has helped, too. Indeed, the pound has been stronger against the dollar than against other currencies.

On Wednesday, sterling traded at \$1.6075 in London, its highest level in about four years. By late Friday afternoon, however, it had backed off a bit to \$1.6015.

In the past seven years, the pound hit a low of \$1.0470 on Feb. 26, 1985, and a high of \$2.4525 on Nov. 4, 1980.

The pound also has risen because accords such as the one reached in Paris put a floor under the dollar, which prompts investors to turn to other currencies, Mr. O'Brien said.

In addition, investors are optimistic about Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's prospects of winning a third successive five-year term. Mrs. Thatcher's Conservative government must call a general election before June 1988.

Citing that optimism, Mr. Chertkow said: "The markets now are going to increasingly purchase pounds."

"The upside seems substantial," Mr. Chertkow said. "The pound should appear to be one of the better currencies in the world in the next three to six months."

Mr. O'Brien disagrees. He said: "The trend in the long term still remains to keep it weaker. It will begin to slip back a bit, but as the dollar falls it will improve against the dollar but weaken against the (West German) Deutsch mark."

Indicating how volatile the foreign exchange markets can be, Mr. O'Brien added: "You've only got to have a fall in the oil market and that could weaken sterling."

That compared with 72.3 on Thursday; 69.1 on the last trading day before the Paris accord was reached and 74.3 a year ago.

In 1986 the index opened at 77.9 on Jan. 2, and closed at 69.2 on Dec. 31.

The pound has been strong in general because of optimism about the British economy and because of higher oil prices, which

served the purpose for which it had been created. He called for early ratification of the new accord in order "to avoid an undue gap between the old and the new."

Mr. Gerard Guillemeau of France, speaking for consumers, agreed that the 1979 agreement had worked "relatively well." But as economic conditions had changed, consumers had been led to make proposals for improving its functioning, he added. The

adoption of the new pact, he said, "attests to the importance of rubber and confidence in the rubber industry."

The two-week meeting, which began on March 9, was the fourth attempt to clinch a deal in nearly two years. The last round of talks in October broke down over consumer demands for tighter controls of the buffer stock aimed at preventing a collapse similar to that of the international tin agreement.

## Mexico, banks sign \$60b pact

NEW YORK (AP) — Mexico signed a record-breaking financial package Friday with its foreign commercial bank creditors covering \$60 billion of its \$100 billion foreign debt.

The package is the largest ever put together in the international credit markets and the first under the Baker initiative, said Mr. William Rhodes, the Citicorp vice president who represented the banks at the ceremony.

Mexican Finance Minister Gustavo Petricoli, who signed for Mexico, said the package "is the largest, most comprehensive and far-reaching effort in debt management yet achieved for a sovereign borrower."

Mexico's foreign debt is the second largest in the Third World behind Brazil's \$108 billion. Third World debt now totals about \$1 trillion. The Baker initiative is a plan proposed by U.S. Treasury Secretary James Baker to provide new funds for countries that take measures to improve their economic performance.

The package includes the restructuring of \$43.7 billion of debt; a decrease in interest rates on \$8.6 billion in new-money facilities signed in 1983 and 1984 and a 1986-1987 in new-money facility totalling \$6 billion, including a \$1 billion cofinancing with the World Bank.

## YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

### FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 1987

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You need to make sure you understand whatever comes to your attention. You will be able to get into the practical phases of whatever arises for considerable progress.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Handle civic tasks first and later be sure to do whatever an important person expects of you.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Study that new course of action before you put it into operation. You can get excellent results with little effort.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) At first you don't understand a responsibility that is yours, but later it sinks in nicely and all goes well.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Come to a better understanding with an associate. Dash around in public view tonight and be charming.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) You find it hard to handle your duties at first, but later you think clearly and become a human dynamo.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Smooth out any wrinkles in your talents and bring them into the open. Enjoy the happiness you have found.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Study the stumbling blocks in family relations and remove them. Make any home improvements that are needed.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Don't let a letter disturb you since this can be turned into an advantage if handled quickly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Postpone handling a practical matter until you know more about it. Get advice from higher-ups.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You find yourself in a cheery mood and can state your desires to those who can assist you in gaining them.

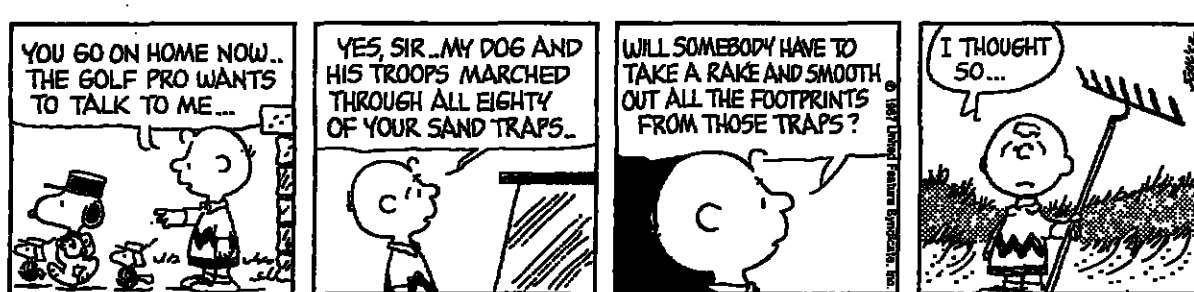
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may feel depressed at first, but this spurs you on to more progressive activity.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Avoid that person who wants to have his, or her, own way at any cost. Later be with those who can help you.

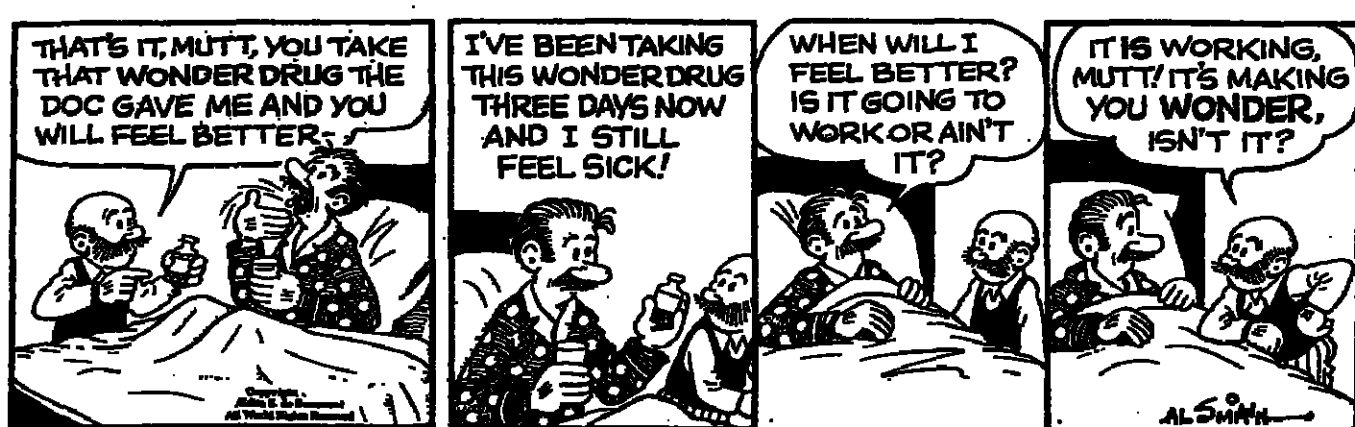
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he, or she, will have the ability to reorganize existing methods and come up with something better. Be sure to give as fine an academic education as you can, since your progeny could become a valuable pioneer and a boon to humanity. People will be drawn to this child.

## Crosswords not received

### Peanuts



### Mutt'n' Jeff



### Andy Capp





# Aquino resents U.S. criticism; Ramos calls for military unity

**MANILA (R)** — Philippine President Corazon Aquino criticised a U.S. defence official Saturday for saying she had no concrete programme of fighting Communist rebels, and said he should check his facts first before talking.

"I really resent the fact that somebody like Mr. (Richard) Armitage should be saying things that are not entirely accurate. I don't think anybody should be saying that about another government," she told reporters.

The Philippine News Agency said 104 people died and 71 were wounded in rebel attacks this week, making it the bloodiest this year in the government's anti-insurgency drive.

Mrs. Aquino was commenting on statements by Mr. Armitage, the U.S. assistant secretary for defence, that Manila had failed to develop a comprehensive counter-insurgency plan and that rebel strength had increased by nine per cent to 24,430 since Mrs. Aquino came to power last year.

He spoke during a Congressional Foreign Affairs Subcommittee hearing in Washington on Thursday.

Mrs. Aquino said: "He (Armitage) was saying that we are not addressing the issues properly and I have to disagree entirely with his supposition. May be he should have inquired further before issuing a statement like that," she said.

A group of middle-level military officers also said they "deeply resented" the U.S. official's statements.

Mrs. Aquino said soldiers loyal to deposed President Ferdinand Marcos could have been behind this week's Philippine Military Academy bombing which left four people dead.

"We have to face the reality that there are some members of the military still loyal to Marcos ... and they are still trying to destabilise the government," she told reporters.

Mrs. Aquino is scheduled to address a graduation class Sunday at the academy in the northern resort city of Baguio.

More than 40 people were hurt in Wednesday's blast, which wrecked the parade grandstand from where Mrs. Aquino was to have watched a march-past to mark Armed Forces Day.

The Philippine News Agency said the military would be on full alert this weekend while Mrs. Aquino and the country's top military leaders were in Baguio.

A military source described the action as "precautionary."

Asked if she thought Marcos supporters were involved in the bombing, Mrs. Aquino said her predecessor was in power for 20 years and "there was no known military group opposing him."

She said it was not surprising that after all those years there were still people in the government who supported Marcos and his armed forces chief, Fabian Ver.

The Philippines' military chief Saturday called for armed forces unity.

Gen. Fidel Ramos made his call for unity in a speech to cadets at the Philippine Military Academy.

In his speech to the cadets, Gen. Ramos said: "Once again each man and woman in the ranks is called upon to set aside individual ambitions and personal comfort and to sacrifice narrower concerns so that the highest interest of our country can be served."

Denouncing the bombing as "senseless terrorism," he said it "underlines the urgent need at this time for the renewal in our hearts and by our actions of our pledge of loyalty to country and people."

## Shultz: Aid cuts would damage U.S. interests

**WASHINGTON (R)** — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, battling Congress over the foreign aid budget, has said that the United States would shoot itself in the foot if it went ahead with expected cuts.

"When the world prospers, we prosper. When the world has a bad time, we have a bad time," he told a conference on international development issues.

"We are in the process of shooting ourselves in the foot," Mr. Shultz said "a very drastic set of reductions" in the foreign aid budget from \$23 billion in 1985 to \$17 billion this year meant Washington's ability to help poor countries prosper was at its lowest proportion of the federal budget for nearly 40 years.

"We have cut back at a moment of opportunity," he added, arguing the U.S. models of free-market economy and democratic government were being followed increasingly around the world. "You don't hear people saying

any more that Communism is the way of the future, because it isn't," he said.

"We've been dealt a winning hand. What we need now is some chips to put out there on the table so we can play it."

Mr. Shultz has argued in Congress, where committees have said repeatedly aid money for the 1988 financial year starting in October will have to be reduced to meet budget targets, that the only way the cuts could be made would be firing people.

He has said between 20 and 25 foreign mission would have to be closed because a large proportion of the aid budget, some \$5 billion, was earmarked for Israel and Egypt and could not be reduced.

"That means we have to squeeze the daylight out of everything else. President Reagan has presented a tight, but workable request, and the Congress is whacking away at it," he complained.

## Death toll in Venezuela poisoning rises to 13

**CARACAS (R)** — The death toll at a Venezuelan old age home rose to 13 as doctors struggled to save 126 people hospitalised after drinking a home brew poisoned with a lethal pesticide, health officials said.

The state news agency Venpres said 13 people had died since the poisoning Thursday at a party at a home for the elderly in San Cristobal, 840 kilometres west of Caracas.

"In this situation one has to be realistic. We expect more deaths, because these are elderly people," said Health Minister Otto Hernandez Piretti Friday.

The 135 residents of the San Pablo home, run by Catholic nuns, were celebrating the St. Joseph's feast day Thursday with lunch and a fermented local brew called masato.

Health Ministry officials said the masato contained a lethal level of parathion, a highly toxic agent used in Venezuela as a pesticide.

Some of the residents suffered nausea, vomiting and difficulty breathing. Three people died on the spot and the rest were taken to nearby hospitals.

A quantity of the poison was on hand in the home for killing insects. Police have not determined whether the poisoning was deliberate or if the insecticide was present in the food as a result of recent fumigation.

## Casey back in hospital

**WASHINGTON (R)** — Former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director William Casey, who underwent brain surgery in December, has been readmitted to a Washington hospital, a spokesman has said.

He said Mr. Casey was readmitted to Georgetown University Hospital last Friday for re-evaluation and was in stable condition but would give no further information.

A U.S. television network, CBS, said Casey had undergone further surgery after he had difficulty swallowing.

Mr. Casey was released from the hospital Feb. 28, 10 weeks after being admitted for brain surgery.

He had a brain seizure in his office on Dec. 15 and doctors subsequently removed a cancerous brain tumour.

The last hospital report in February said he was recovering but had difficulty speaking and controlling the right side of his body.

Mr. Casey resigned as CIA director on Jan. 29. Deputy Director Robert Gates is acting director.

## India arrests extremist suspected of train blast

**NEW DELHI (R)** — A suspected Tamil extremist was arrested Saturday in connection with a train bombing which killed at least 32 people in the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

PTI said Pichai Pillai, 28, was arrested at a village about 20 kilometres from where the train crashed last Sunday when a bridge was blown up.

It said police found some explosive devices in his possession and they were investigating whether he had any links with the

extremist Tamil Nadu Freedom Army (TNFA).

It said the TNFA was believed to have close ties with the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) — a Maoist group.

About 200 people were injured when two powerful explosions tore apart the track and sent the locomotive and eight coaches plunging into a dry river bed. The train was on its way to Madras from Tiruchirappalli.

Earlier, investigators detained two men and questioned Sri Lankan Tamil militants in connection with the bombing.

## French protesters damage South African embassy

**PARIS (R)** — Youths who stormed the South African embassy in Paris Friday night to protest at the jailing of a Frenchman in Ciskei caused damage estimated at more than half a million francs (\$80,000), the embassy said Saturday.

Embassy spokesman Aubrey Morton told Reuters the youths smashed windows at the 12-year-old building on the left bank of the Seine, daubed slogans and damaged telephone and printing equipment in the entrance hall.

The room had been set up for a church service for the South African community on Sunday, and they smashed the chairs and the organ," he said.

A French Foreign Ministry spokesman said South Africa had not contacted the French government about the storming of the mission and he therefore had no

comment at the moment.

The demonstrators, responding to a call from the Communist youth movement, were protesting at a four-year jail term imposed Friday in the nominally independent homeland of Ciskei against university lecturer Pierre-Andre Albertini, 27.

Mr. Morton said between 300 and 350 demonstrators entered the ground floor of the embassy after 8 p.m. and stayed for some two hours. Witnesses had put the number at about 200.

The spokesman said experts were assessing the damage and the bill would be sent to the French Foreign Ministry, which is liable for the costs.

In Pretoria Foreign Minister P. Botha condemned the incident and called on the French government to protect the mission against "vandalism."

## President turns down appeal by Greek church leaders

**ATHENS, Greece (AP)** — President Christos Sartzetakis has rejected an appeal by leading Orthodox bishops against a planned state takeover of church-owned property in Greece.

After a two-hour meeting with Archbishop Seraphim of Athens, primate of the Orthodox Church in Greece, and four senior bishops, the head of state issued a warning against "unlawful actions" by the church.

"Any doubt about the constitutionality of a law isn't solved through unlawful actions but through recourse to the authorities responsible," a presidency statement said.

The Orthodox Church of Greece is battling premier Andreas Papandreu's Socialist government over a draft law that will empower laymen to administer church estates valued at more than 130 billion drachmas (\$1 billion).

Greece's 78 Orthodox bishops say they will boycott church services and other celebrations marking next Wednesday's March 25 Independence Day holiday to protest the takeover plan.

The bishops also have

announced immediate grants of monastery land to needy farmers in defiance of the law's proposal for their transfer to farm cooperatives, public sector companies and local authorities.

"The hierarchy considers the government's intervention in the running of the church unconstitutional and doesn't consider it a matter for discussion," Seraphim said in a statement made after the meeting with Mr. Sartzetakis.

The Orthodox Church here enjoys special status as the guardian of Eastern Orthodoxy, Greece's official religion. Parish priests are civil servants and Orthodox bishops significantly influence political and social life in the provinces.

The church acquired its huge estates when Greece won independence in 1827 from Ottoman Turkish rule. Despite surrendering more than three-quarters of its holdings to the state in 1952, it is still the country's largest landowner.

The bishops say they are willing to hand over around 140,000 hectares (350,000 acres) of forests and farmland belonging to the country's 470 Orthodox monasteries.

## Italian general killed in new guerrilla upsurge

**ROME (AP)** — Hundreds of policemen looking for the killer of an air force general searched the dwellings of terrorist suspects and sympathisers throughout Rome overnight, authorities said Saturday.

Anti-terrorism police, in twos and threes, were seen around government buildings and key intersections. Police were also searching cars at roadblocks around Rome, the officials said. No arrests were reported.

Gen. Licio Giorgieri, 61, was shot to death Friday evening as he rode in his car. He was killed by pistol fire from two men riding a motorcycle. An anonymous caller claimed a leftist group believed linked to the terrorist Red Brigades was responsible.

He was shot in Rome's Aurelia neighbourhood, a verdant section near the sprawling Villa Doria Pamphili park and about five kilometres from the historic heart of the capital.

Gen. Giorgieri was an engineer in charge of buying and maintaining arms and aircraft, said Cmdr. Francesco Di Mento, a Defence Ministry spokesman. Italian newspapers said Saturday that he was known in military circles as "The Star Wars expert."

An autopsy showed that the general was shot five times — twice in the neck, twice in the left shoulder and once in left ear, police said.

Premier-Designate Giulio Andreotti, in a statement, condemned the assassination as "a barbarous and evil act." Interior Minister Oscar Luigi Scalfaro called a meeting of top anti-terrorism officials for later in the day to review the second terrorist attack in Rome in five weeks, claimed by leftwing terrorists.

About an hour after Friday's attack, an anonymous woman caller told the Milan office of the Rome newspaper La Repubblica that the killing was the work of the Fighting Communist Union, the ANSA news agency reported. It said the group is believed a splinter group of the Red Brigades, which orchestrated a reign of terror in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

"This evening we took care of Licio Giorgieri, the top man in charge of constructing arms and air force and space armaments. A communique will follow. Fighting Communist Union," news media quoted the caller as saying.

Gen. Giorgieri was dead on arrival at a hospital, police said.

## U.S. clears way for final installment of contra aid

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The final installment of a \$100-million aid package for Nicaragua's contra rebels becomes available for spending this weekend, putting it out of reach of congressional opponents for all practical purposes.

But the opponents say their chances of defeating Republican President Ronald Reagan's next contra-aid request are better. And their hopes were bolstered Friday by Democratic Senator San Nunn's suggestion that his consistent support for such aid can no longer be counted on.

I'm not locked into voting for the military programme in the fall," Sen. Nunn, an influential senator on military issues, said in an interview with reporters. "I'm going to keep an open eye on it and see what the administration plans."

Sen. Nunn, who is chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, voted with the Reagan administration this week when the Senate narrowly defeated a Democratic effort to withhold the

final \$40-million installment on the contra aid package.

But he said Friday that "numerous mistakes" have been made in the administration's efforts to use the contra aid to keep military pressure on the Sandinista government.

"I think if you look back on it and started all over on it, you'd have to ask real questions about whether this was the right way to go," he said.

Meanwhile, Senate minority leader Bob Dole said the passing of Friday night's deadline for congressional disapproval of Mr. Reagan's formal request for the \$40 million will mean an effort by opponents to place a moratorium on aid for the contra will become virtually meaningless.

Legislation now bottled up by a Senate filibuster would give the administration six months to give an accounting of past aid money, including any funds diverted from Iranian arms sales or donated by other countries or private parties, and would cut off any further aid in the meantime.

## FDA approves 1st drug for AIDS treatment

**NEW YORK (Agencies)** — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved the first drug for treatment of AIDS patients in the United States, the Public Health Service said.

The drug is AZT, or, azidothymidine, and will be marketed as Retrovir. It was developed by Burroughs Wellcome Co., the U.S. arm of Britain's Wellcome PLC.

Because of limited supply, the FDA said the drug will be restricted initially to patients with AIDS or AIDS-related complex with severely depressed ability to fight off disease or with a history of pneumonia, diseases that often hit AIDS patients.

The drug is not a cure for acquired immune deficiency syndrome, but has been shown in clinical trials to slow its progress. Approval had been expected.

In research results released Friday Burroughs Wellcome said its trial tests indicated that 68 per cent of those treated "were able to continue or resume productive lives."

There were problems, however. The results showed that 34 per cent of the patients receiving the drug suffered deterioration of their bone marrow, vital for the manufacture of white blood cells to fight infection.

The announcement was made by the Public Health Service, part of the federal agency, Health and Human Services.

The drug has already been approved for sale in Britain and France.

Burroughs has said that it has adequate supplies of the drug for the seriously ill patients and will have supplies for 30,000 or more patients by the end of the year.

The condition can be treated to an extent with blood transfusions but the complication means that many AIDS victims will not be able to benefit from AZT.

"Today's approval marks an important step but by no means a final victory in our ongoing war against AIDS," Dr. Robert Winok, head of the U.S. Public Health Service, said in a statement.

this dread disease," he said.

About 32,000 cases of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) have been diagnosed in the United States. About 14,000 people are still living, the FDA said.

The viral disease, to date invariably fatal, destroys the immune system, leaving the body prey to bacteria, viruses and cancer.

In the United States and Europe, homosexual and bisexual men, and intravenous drug users are the highest risk groups, although heterosexuals are at high risk in Africa. The virus is spread by sexual activity, blood products and contaminated needles.

Organisations representing AIDS patients say the government's approval of the first anti-AIDS drug was a small step in the right direction, but emphasises that it was not a cure.

They also expressed concern that many deserving patients would not be able to afford the new drug.

"One of the frightening things is that because of the cost of the drug, it will offer some false hope for people who simply can't afford the \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year that this drug will cost," said Jeffrey Levi, executive director of the National Gay Task Force in Washington, D.C.

Levi noted that some patients now receiving the drug free as part of research programmes may suddenly find themselves forced to pay for it and may have to discontinue treatment.

"People who take the drug are not going to have their immune deficiency go away," said Lawrence Kaplan, medical director of the AIDS clinic at San Francisco General Hospital, where AZT has been in use for some time.

"They are going to continue to have problems with the usual complications of AIDS, though it's possible that may occur at a slower rate," he said.

"It's a small step in the right direction. This drug seems to have some demonstrated benefit in the short term, in terms of survival. But we have no idea what kind of benefit it has in the long term."

## COLUMNS 7&8

### Monastery facing acute shortage of monks

**LONDON (R)** — An ancient British island monastery has a problem — an acute shortage of monks. The Cistercian Monastery on Caldy Island off the southern coast of Wales, where monastic orders have existed for 1,000 years, is visited by scores of summer tourists drawn by its famed chocolate and perfume. But with just nine monks left — the average age is 64 — Father Robert, the abbot, has told British television he feared the abbey could not exist much longer without recruits. "We're often told we're valuable... (visitors) want something they can come back to year after year," he told the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

### Gropius cabinet sold in London

**LONDON (AP)** — A mahogany cabinet designed by the German-born architect Walter Gropius in 1913 sold for £26,400 (nearly \$42,000) at Sotheby's, the auctioneers said. Furniture by Gropius is rarely seen in salerooms and a price over £20,000 (\$31,800) had been estimated. The seller was not identified. The purchaser was a European private buyer. The 6-foot (183-cm) tall cabinet, in conservative style with bronze inlays and two doors, was made for Karl Herzfeld in Hannover in 1913. It was in sharp contrast to the revolutionary innovations that Gropius was making in architecture at that time. In 1919, he founded the Bauhaus School of Design, which radically reorganised art and design studies in pre-Hitler Germany. Gropius left Germany in 1934 and became a U.S. citizen. He died in Boston in 1969.

### French launches anti-pornography drive

**PARIS (AP)** — The conservative government of Premier Jacques Chirac has moved to restrict sales of 10 magazines, including the French editions of Penthouse, saying they are pornographic and a danger to youth. Under the 1949 law invoked by Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, the publications will not be banned, but may not be sold to children under 18. Six of them also would be forbidden from advertising. In effect, the restrictions would mean the magazines could no longer be distributed through normal channels to newsstands and kiosks in Paris and the provinces. "Applying this law amounts to killing the magazines," Frank Tenot of Editions Filipacchi, said in an interview in the daily Liberation. His company publishes four of the magazines affected, including Penthouse and Newlook.

### U.N. diplomats getting fewer tickets

**UNITED NATIONS (R)** — Parking violations by U.N. delegates and foreign consular officials in New York dropped dramatically last year to 38,000, compared to about 65,000 in 1985, city officials have said. Gillian Martin Sorensen, city commissioner for the United Nations and the Consular Corps, said the decrease was even more remarkable when compared to the 153,784 parking violations recorded against the diplomatic community in 1978, when she took office. The decrease in violations comes despite a cut of 40 per cent since 1978 in parking spaces reserved for vehicles with diplomatic immunity. Sorensen said few diplomatic offenders ever paid fines. The city commission periodically warns missions and consulates with an especially bad record. Ghana led the list last year with an average of about 10 parking tickets per vehicle per month, but officials acknowledged that parking conditions near that nation's mission are among the worst in the city. Saudi Arabia, Sudan and Zimbabwe also received large numbers of tickets.

### Evangelist group rocked by sex scandal

**CHARLOTTE (R)** — A television Evangelist group was in disarray after its president admitted he paid \$115,000 in blackmail to hide his extramarital affair with a 21-year-old secretary. Jim Bakker, president of the PTL Club which produces a nationally broadcast television show, resigned Thursday after admitting he had a sexual encounter seven years ago with a church secretary, Jessica Hahn. Bakker asked television Evangelist Jerry Falwell, founder of the Christian fundamentalist moral majority, to replace him at the helm of PTL, which stands for "Praise the Lord." But one of Falwell's first appointees to the PTL board, a Baptist minister who had agreed to take the job Thursday, backed out Friday.

### Dole campaign headquarters burglarised

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The national campaign headquarters of Senate Republican leader Robert Dole of Kansas, who is a likely presidential contender in 1988, and an adjacent office were burglarised, police have said. "We haven't determined at this time if it was committed for monetary reasons, for taking office equipment and converting it to cash or if it could possibly have some kind of political overtones," police spokesman Capt. William White III said.

### Turkey bans National Geographic atlas

**ANKARA (R)** — National Geographic magazine's World Atlas appeared on the Turkish government's latest list of banned works published Friday. The government announcement gave no reason for the banning but atlases are often proscribed in Turkey because they refer in historical maps to Armenia or Kurdistan. Turkey rejects demands from some nationalists for the establishment of separate Armenian or Kurdish states on its territory. Other publications on the list Friday included works about Communist thinkers Karl Marx and V.I. Lenin in German and Iranian propaganda in Farsi. A Turkish-language calendar from West Berlin was also on the list.

### Pakistan reports first AIDS death

**KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)** — A Tanzanian seaman who died recently in a local hospital was the first victim to succumb to AIDS in Pakistan, according to a report. The Associated Press of Pakistan, the semi-official national news agency, said Kadi Ibrahim died from acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) at Karachi's Aga Khan Hospital several weeks ago.

### Stallone denies divorce rumours

**LOS ANGELES (R)** — Sylvester Stallone has said "vicious rumours" that he and his wife of 15 months, Actress Brigitte Nielsen, are seeking a divorce are totally false. "We couldn't be happier and more together," Stallone said in a statement issued by his publicity agent, Paul Bloch, apparently in response to recent press reports about the couple. "We have never been separated since our marriage and we couldn't be more in love." Stallone, who intends to start filming Rambo III in the United States in five or six weeks, married Nielsen in a private ceremony in Los Angeles on Dec. 15, 1985. Nielsen, 17 years younger than the 40-year-old Stallone, wore white mink.

### Rolling Stones 'may never play again'

**LONDON (AP)** — Bill Wyman, bass guitarist with the Rolling Stones, says the famous British rock group may never play together again because of disputes among the members. In an interview beamed across Europe on Music Box satellite television Thursday night, Wyman blamed Mick Jagger, the five-man group's lead singer, for the final feud. "He's the guilty one. He decided to do his own thing and be famous in his own right. I think everybody likes to have success on their own but I think there are other ways of doing it," he said. "The time comes when all good things must pass. It's just one of those things. It's a pity we didn't go out with a big bang instead of just a whimper. I don't know whether we will ever go back on the road. That depends on... Mick and (guitarist) Keith (Richards) becoming friendly again. That's the problem."

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## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN  
AND OMAR SHARIF  
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DEAR MR. GOREN:

Q.—There's something I don't understand about the mathematics of bridge. Suppose that you hold the following card combination:

DUMMY  
♦ Q 6 3  
YOU  
♦ A K 10 4

You need four tricks from the suit. The odds favor a 4-2 break, so it would seem that, after cashing the king and queen, you should finesse the 10 on the third round. However, the "Official Encyclopedia of Bridge" says that if both opponents follow, you should play the ace next. Why is that?—N.P., West Hartford, Conn.

A.—You are correct in your assertion that, a priori, the odds favor a 4-2 split. However, the Encyclopedia is correct when it says that, once both opponents have followed to the second round of the suit, it is correct to play for the drop rather than the finesse.

And a 3-3 split is more likely than finding your left-hand opponent specifically with a doubleton. All in all, there is not that much difference between the two lines. The drop is about a 2 per cent better play than the finesse.

Q.—My partner wants to use the Gerber Convention in all circumstances as our ace-asking convention. Is that wise?—A. R., Ft. Worth, Texas.

A.—For those readers who do not know the convention, Gerber uses four clubs to ask for aces instead of four no trump. Most experts use it only as a jump bid over one no trump or two no trump. That allows them to keep four no trump as a natural bid, inviting partner to bid slam if he is at the top of his range for his no trump bid, or to pass if he is minimum.

We strongly suggest that you confine your use of Gerber to these cases. In too many auctions you need four clubs as a natural bid to help describe your hand. And then there are the cases where the bid is more useful as Stayman; for example, in the auction:

South West North East  
2 ♠ Pass 2 ♣ Pass  
3 NT Pass 4 ♠

If North has an unbalanced hand with a major suit, perhaps with slam interest, he needs to be able to find out if there is a 4-4 fit before he gets too high.